

Government policy on deportations 'softening'

Protest wins pledge on aid and orphans

By Robin Oakley in London, Mary Magistad in Hanoi
and Joe Joseph in Hong Kong

Britain appeared last night to soften the edges of its policy on forcibly repatriating Vietnamese boat people from Hong Kong.

Mr Francis Maude, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, promised a church group that he would look again at the question of deporting orphans, unaccompanied children and those who would face religious discrimination at home.

He also gave an undertaking to re-examine an aid programme to Vietnam to discourage economic migrants, and to ensure that there were enough staff at the British Embassy in Hanoi to monitor the fate of those immigrants returned home from Hong Kong.

The church delegation, led by Mr David Alton, Liberal Democrat MP for Mossley Hill, had given Mr Maude a

document claiming that half a million people were in re-education camps in Vietnam including 200 Catholic priests and 30 Protestant pastors.

The delegation said that Hanoi had one of the worst human rights records in the world.

Mr Maude's assurances came as Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, emphasized that he was not planning

further compulsory deportations "in the immediate future".

Flights are due to leave Hong Kong for Hanoi on December 21 and 29, but these are expected to be filled with voluntary returnees. It is understood that Mr Hurd is not planning any compulsory flights until the new year, and a senior Vietnamese official said yesterday that the agreement with Britain was for only one plane load of involuntary returnees.

Mr Nghiem Xuan Tuc, the official in charge of helping returnees to resettlement, described the return of 51 boat people on Tuesday as a "human experiment". "We must see how this experiment goes," he said. "After that we will have to talk again."

Those who were deported on Tuesday were taken to the Sao Sam transit centre, about 20 miles from Hanoi, where their progress was monitored by the British ambassador. The boat people were said to have been anxious, but officials said they were living in better conditions than many local people.

They were being given three hot meals a day, blankets, mosquito nets, hot drinks and individual huts for different families. One observer said: "Even United Nations officials who have seen the centre and the camps in Hong Kong say this place is much better."

The British and Hong Kong governments aimed to make Tuesday's deportations a "stick" to go with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees' "carrot" which offers voluntary returnees \$50 before they leave Hong Kong and \$30 a month - twice a teacher's pay - for a year after their return.

One Western official said he thought the programme would attract more volunteers. "The

lists of volunteers from the Hong Kong camps have grown much longer. Perhaps it's because word is getting back that those who have already come back aren't being jumped on by policemen with big boots."

But there are latent fears that this programme might encourage poor Vietnamese farmers to try to make it to Hong Kong, simply to reap the reward for returning.

Mr Nghiem insisted yesterday that none of the returnees would be punished for leaving Vietnam illegally, although those with a criminal record would be "suitably treated".

"Our government must be like a parent toward children," he said. "We must tell them that they've done wrong, but then make it possible for them to improve and lead a normal life."

"We have a saying here in Vietnam that we beat those who run away, but we never beat those who return."

But the reassurances of Mr Hurd and the Vietnamese government did little to allay the fears of the 6,000 boat people in Hong Kong camps. They remained peacefully behind the fortified walls, shouting for an end to mandatory repatriation and waving banners claiming they would rather die than return to Hanoi.

The Hong Kong government attacked critics of the repatriation programme, and Sir David Ford, Hong Kong's Chief Secretary, told the Legislative Council: "We do not look for the world's applause, but we are entitled to ask for the world's understanding."

"Those who have been loudest in their condemnation have been slowest in bringing forward practical alternatives. This is not a role or a responsibility which we have sought. It is one which geography and circumstance has thrust upon us. We have responded with humanity and decency to a prolonged crisis."

But the condemnation of the deportations continued yesterday, with Amnesty International, Oxfam and the UN refugee commission saying that Tuesday's airlift had delayed the departure of 1,000 Vietnamese who had volunteered to go back and that if the forced repatriation scheme broke down because of world condemnation, even more

Continued on page 22, col 7



Viet Ho, aged 22, a former Vietnamese boat refugee, keeps vigil outside the Foreign Office.

Young called to explain £150m Rover sale to BAe

By Colin Narbrough

A key parliamentary committee will reopen its investigation into the controversial British Aerospace takeover of Rover. Lord Young of Graffham, former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, will be asked to appear before it.

The decision by the cross-party Commons select committee on trade and industry, which has been highly critical of the way in which certain public assets have been sold, is likely to add to embarrassment over the Rover affair.

The announcement yesterday that the committee is reopening its investigation of the £150 million sale, just over a year after ending its last hearings, comes after a statement last week by Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commissioner, that he had demanded all information on the agreement and was seeking talks with Whitehall officials.

Sir Leon, whose predecessor, Mr Peter Sutherland, approved the BAe-Rover agreement after cutting down the level of government support, has not disclosed whether he intended to ask for some of the official funds to be repaid.

Like Brussels, the select committee feels it was either deliberately misled or given insufficient information. Mr Graham Day, Rover chairman at the time, who was recalled by the select committee last year, had to apologize for unintentionally misleading it over plant closures.

In a bid to defuse the pressure, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Sec-

retary of State for Trade and Industry, published documents on Tuesday which disclosed that the real price BAe may pay for Rover could be less than £100 million. The documents gave details of talks between Lord Young and Professor Roland Smith, the BAe chairman, during the final stages of the agreement.

Mr Ridley insisted there was no extra £10 million concession on top of the £33 million of secret sweeteners uncovered last month. However, he opened a fresh con-

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trovery by disclosing that the Government would not take an "inflexible approach" to disposals of the group's assets.

Mr Kenneth Warren, Conservative MP for Hastings and Rye, who chairs the select committee, said the investigation was being re-opened to look at "certain aspects of the Rover deal not drawn to our attention at the time".

In a terse statement, he said Lord Young, Professor Smith and Mr Day were being invited to appear before the committee early next year.

Mr Ridley, appearing before the committee yesterday on the question of the Government's policy on holding golden shares in privatized companies, such as BAe, rejected a suggestion that the Government had accepted there should be a bias against foreign owners where there is no defence interest.

Kremlin rejects new ideas for economy

From Mary Dejevsky
Moscow

Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet Prime Minister, announced yesterday that the Government had rejected proposals for the introduction of private property, including land ownership, widespread denationalization of industry and immediate monetary reform.

It had also dismissed ideas from those at the opposite end of current Soviet economic thinking, who have advocated rationing, the introduction of a six-day working week, cuts in annual holidays, and the

imposition of a state of emergency in regions where hardship is especially severe.

He insisted that, although embattled, perestroika was still on course, and he indicated that the present shift from heavy industry to the production of consumer goods would be accelerated.

Mr Ryzhkov's speech to the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies disappointed more radical delegates by its lack of new solutions. But it revealed several significant adjustments to present policy.

The leadership appears to have brought forward plans

for a complete overhaul of the present unrealistic pricing system, while dismissing any thought of increasing imports to placate consumer demand. It also appears to have rethought reform of the banking system, to give the Soviet state bank, Gosbank, a new role as a

regulator of credit and arbiter over the national currency.

Mr Ryzhkov told delegates that price reform was a matter of urgency and that the pricing structure would be changed by stages from 1991 to 1992.

Despite assurances that wages, pensions and other social benefits would be increased next year in anticipation of the change the news on price reform is likely to encourage further flight from the rouble towards hard currency and barter dealing.

Mr Ryzhkov also revealed that plans to change the purchase prices of agricultural produce next year had been judged counter-productive. Prices for agricultural produce are now to be changed in the framework of the general price reform of 1991-2.

Mr Ryzhkov repeatedly

stressed the continued shift in production from heavy industry to consumer goods, but he dashed widespread hopes for an influx of western consumer goods. He made known that the leadership had come down against the argument that popular discontent could be assuaged by imported consumer goods.

He was adamant that the Soviet Union's present shortage of hard currency was "the most dangerous shortage of all" because it affected the country's technological progress and its entry into the world market.

Attack on checkpoint kills two

By Edward Gorman
Irish Affairs
Correspondent

Two soldiers were killed yesterday and two injured in an IRA attack on the Derry permanent vehicle military checkpoint, between the villages of Roslea and Five-miletown near the border in County Fermanagh.

It was thought an unknown number of terrorists, possibly travelling in two cars, opened fire on soldiers near the checkpoint to divert their attention as a van or car bomb was driven at it.

The bomb exploded a short time later. One of the wounded men was "ill but in a stable condition" in hospital. The second man was thought not to be seriously hurt. There were unconfirmed reports that RPG-7 rockets may have been used in the attack as well as a number of hand grenades.

Inflation threat to EMS entry

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Britain's inflation rate will be too far above the rest of Europe next year to allow full entry to the EMS, according to official sources.

The three conditions set by Mrs Thatcher for Britain's entry remain in place - lower UK inflation, free movement of capital, and "real progress" towards the single market - and there is no commitment to join at the end of next year. However, inflation is seen as the most important constraint on early entry.

The end-1990 date is six months later than the deadline set at the Madrid summit in June for free capital movement which was one of the conditions set by Mrs Thatcher. At Madrid it was thought possible Britain would join as soon as capital controls had been removed. Since then, however, Britain's inflation rate has deteriorated.

In judging the moment to join, attention is likely to focus on the underlying rate of inflation which is most nearly comparable with EC measures.

To join by the end of next year would require considerably better performance than projected by the official forecast in the Chancellor's autumn statement.

This shows the retail price index still rising at 5 1/2 per cent a year compared with 7 1/2 per cent in the fourth quarter of this year, implying little improvement in the underlying rate.

Although British entry is at least a year away it is believed that the other EC countries are now more convinced that Britain is serious about joining. The noticeable softening of the Prime Minister's tone on the subject of Europe since last week's Strasbourg summit reflects this seriousness.

20 cleaners to be deported

Twenty of the 64 cleaning staff, mostly from West Africa, held during a raid on BP's offices in the City of London, are to be deported as illegal immigrants.

The Immigration Service has warned the Home Office there must be tens of thousands of illegal immigrants working in unpopular and unskilled jobs. Page 3

Mandela talks

Nelson Mandela, the jailed leader of the African National Congress, yesterday visited President de Klerk in Cape Town for talks on South Africa's future. Page 7

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Tories tip Sir Anthony off Euro committee

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Conservative MPs made Sir Anthony Meyer pay yesterday for challenging Mrs Thatcher for the leadership of the Conservative Party by ousting him from his post as vice chairman of the Tory backbench European affairs committee as a team of right-wingers seized control.

"He didn't get any sympathy and he didn't get the sympathy vote," commented one leading right-winger.

"It's a defeat for the Eurocrats," said another, as three

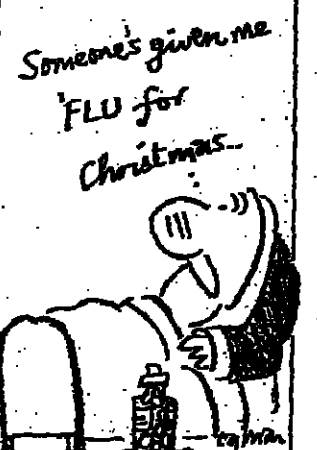
members of the Commons arm of the Euros Group were elected to the committee.

Mr William Cash, MP for Stafford, ousted Mr Ian Taylor, MP for Esher, as chairman in a vote that was widely seen as a barometer of backbench support for Mrs Thatcher on an issue that continues to divide the party.

Sir Anthony made Mrs Thatcher's "obvious distaste" for the European Community the centrepiece of his opposition to her leadership.

London hospitals on red alert over flu epidemic

By Daniel Treisman



Hospitals throughout London were on red alert yesterday, amid fears that the influenza epidemic was stretching health care resources to crisis point.

Thirty-five hospitals in the North-east Thames and South-east Thames health authority districts were accepting only emergency cases, while 25 hospitals in the capital's other districts were on yellow alert, with restricted non-emergency admissions.

An elderly man seriously ill after a bout of flu developed into pneumonia was yesterday waiting for the Emergency Bed Service to locate him a hospital place, after St George's Hospital in Tooting, south-west London, said it would only accept cases that came in via ambulance. Dr Patrick Bower, his

general practitioner, said inadequate staffing levels were putting patients at risk and creating the worst strain on health resources he had seen after eight years as a doctor in the area.

St George's, where only about 10 per cent of nurses are off sick with flu, said it had been tipped into red alert by a flood of cases referred from other city hospitals. It was only able to admit patients whom doctors sent direct to casualty.

Meanwhile, a disagreement emerged about whether the fresh supplies of flu vaccine airlifted from the Continent will be enough to protect those at risk.

The vaccines, arriving from West Germany and Holland, will boost to 3.5 million the number of doses available.

While about 10 million Britons are at risk from the virus, only about 6.5

million would benefit from a vaccine, said Mr Dai Davies, marketing manager of the vaccine manufacturer, Duphar Laboratories. The new supplies would only be enough for about half that number.

But a spokeswoman for the Influenza Monitoring and Information Bureau said the shipments should be enough to meet demand.

"Obviously there will be isolated areas in the country where it will be hard to get. But anyone who wants the vaccine should be able to get it," she said.

Miss Ellen Brotherton, believed to be Britain's oldest flu victim, had to postpone her 105th birthday party yesterday. A former headmistress from Cardiff, she will celebrate after she recovers from the virus.

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Ambulance crews ban SOS calls passed by controllers

By Mark Souster

On the eve of this morning's talks aimed at settling the three-month ambulance dispute, unions said yesterday that London crews would refuse to answer all emergency calls passed to them by their controllers.

Ambulancemen will continue to respond to 999 calls made direct to stations by the public, hospitals, GPs and the police and intend publishing ex-directory telephone numbers which will be widely circulated.

The boycott will begin at 7 am tomorrow. During the pay dispute, ambulances have been answering about 220 of the 1200 calls received daily at London Ambulance Service headquarters.

The decision to extend the dispute was taken on Tuesday night by shop stewards and convenors representing men at 71 stations in London.

Mr Chris Spry, general manager of the South West Thames regional health authority, which runs the London service, described the move as "an extremely dangerous step and the most significant threat yet to patient safety".

However, Mr John Boast, chairman of the convenors' committee, said: "We believe the ambulance service is putting lives at risk, not our

members." A national petition signed by 4.5 million people in support of the ambulance crews will be handed in at Westminster today to Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, and Mr Robin Cook, shadow health secretary.

It was disclosed yesterday that about £1.8 million had been donated by the public to ambulance crews throughout Britain.

● An inquiry into the death of a six-day-old baby boy was launched yesterday amid claims that an Army ambulance took too long to reach him. It comes after the disclosure on Tuesday that a man with a suspected fractured spine and broken ribs waited seven hours before a police car took him to hospital. He later died.

Ambulance unions said the incidents are further evidence that police and the Army are

finding it increasingly difficult to cope during the current industrial dispute. The baby was found unconscious and bleeding from the nose at his home in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, early yesterday morning. An Army ambulance was held up in rush-hour traffic and took 20 minutes to make the two-mile journey from police headquarters.

The baby is believed to have died in the back of the ambulance during the half-mile journey to hospital. It was the second tragedy within two years for the baby's parents, Mr and Mrs Andy Musk.

Another of their children was a victim of cot death and for that reason their new baby was placed on a special monitoring machine at their home supplied by the Sudden Infant Cot Death Society.

Hertfordshire police said

the baby died despite the efforts of a neighbour, a trained midwife, to save him. They said the emergency call was received at 8.03am and the Army ambulance was despatched two minutes later. It arrived back at hospital at 8.35am, having been held up in traffic.

Meanwhile, an inquest on Mr Thomas Hunt, from Greenwich, south-east London, will be held on February 7 at Southwark coroner's court. He died after waiting seven hours for a police car to take him to hospital.

Dr John Thurston, secretary of the Casualty Surgeons' Association, said yesterday: "I am in no doubt that people have died and will continue to die during the dispute who would not otherwise do so."

● Industrial relations at the port of Felixstowe were finely balanced last night as 800 striking dockers awaited the outcome of talks with management aimed at ending the unofficial strike over new working practices (Paul Wilkinson writes).

The walkout, which began on Monday, involves about 800 workers.

Unions and management are anxious to avoid exacerbating the dispute and are unwilling to discuss it.

Nurses fight the flu with jab



Mrs Betty Bradbury, nursing manager, vaccinating Miss Avril Miller, a nurse, in Birmingham yesterday, as the influenza epidemic widened and fresh vaccine was being flown in from the Continent. Birmingham's major hospitals are on yellow alert.

Depression drove poll tax worker to suicide

Mr Fred Trueman, who collected poll tax registration forms, killed himself because he was abused by the public, a Bristol coroner was told yesterday.

His widow Ann, aged 46, said her husband was so depressed he killed himself on the last day he had to make house calls. "Nobody knows the sort of terrible pressures that the poll tax people are working under," she said.

She told the coroner that she returned to their home in Westbury Lane, Bristol, on December 1 after her husband, aged 52, failed to answer the phone twice. She found him hanging from a metal beam wedged in the loft door.

She said: "Many people were abusive to him and this upset Fred. He thought he could not do the job, and if that was the case he would be made redundant."

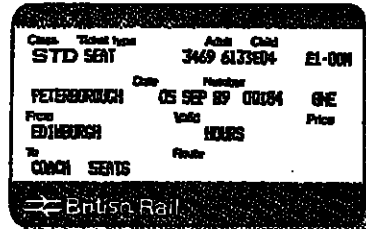
Mr Barry Taylor, from Bristol City Council, said: "We knew he was depressed, but offered him every support, counselling and alternative employment." He said the council would review its procedures.

Miss Faisy Boulton, from Nalco, said: "We have asked for an inquiry to see how other workers have been affected."

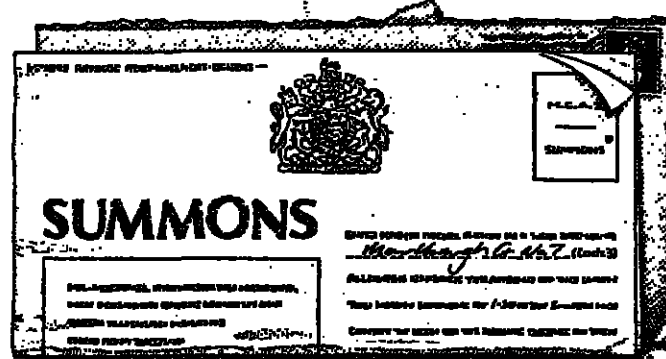
Mr Donald Hawkins, the coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide.

Teacher training threat

Industrial action by polytechnic and college lecturers is threatening to deprive schools of 10,000 new teachers next year (Douglas Broom writes). The National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education said that its boycott of examination and assessment work could bring teacher training in England and Wales to a halt. The boycott is in protest at a 6 per cent pay offer to 17,800 lecturers which was rejected by the union on Tuesday night after it consulted its members.



A high speed rail ticket.



A high speed road ticket.

"Good morning Sir."

"Good morning Officer."

"Is this your train, Sir?"

"Well it's the 6.47, so in a manner of speaking, yes Constable, I suppose it is."

"Do you realise that it has been travelling at an average speed of 109.6 m.p.h. for the past 42 miles?"

"Er well"

"That it was monitored travelling through Grantham at no less than 873 m.p.h."

"Well you see"

"And, according to our information, while this was going on, you were seen in your compartment drinking a cup of coffee, stretching your legs and gazing vacantly out of the window."

"Well, if I could just"

"Moreover, at one point you were even reported to be taking 40 winks."

"Oh, I could have sworn it was only 31 or 32 winks"

"Quite Sir. I'm afraid I shall have to report you for exceeding the speed limit, riding without any care and attention whatsoever and being happy and content without a licence."

(The conversation, mentioned heretofore, has never taken place, although conversations of a not altogether dissimilar nature have been reported by normally reliable sources on the hard shoulder of the M1).

INTERCITY

NEWS ROUNDUP

Oral snuff sachets to be banned

Oral snuff is to be banned to prevent children and young adults taking up the "dangerous habit" which can lead to mouth cancer, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, said yesterday (Jill Sherman writes).

The ban, part of the Government's new campaign to curb teenage smoking, will begin in March and is aimed mainly at Skoal Bandits, tobacco sachets that are sucked in the mouth.

The Government was criticised in 1986 when it emerged that £193,000 had been given in development grants to a Skoal Bandit factory in East Kilbride.

Mr Clarke said in a written Commons answer that the ban would prevent "snuff dipping", by which tobacco is held between the cheek and the gum so that nicotine can be absorbed into the bloodstream. It will not affect traditional chewing tobacco, loose tobacco sold for pipes and cigarettes, or snuff smoked up the nose.

The Coronary Prevention Group, which campaigns against heart disease, hailed the ban as "the most progressive action taken for 20 years in tobacco policy". Ash, the anti-tobacco pressure group Action on Smoking and Health, said that it was "delighted" at the ban.

Bream stepson jailed

Benjamin Bream, aged 28, the stepson of the guitarist Mr Julian Bream, was jailed for four years yesterday by the Central Criminal Court for stabbing a friend to death during a fight at his flat in Barnes, south London, on January 30. Alison O'Leary, aged 21, who stabbed Bream after he had killed her lover, Mr Sean Foster, aged 22, was convicted of wounding Bream and of assaulting another woman and sentenced to six months, suspended for two years.

Teach manners plea

Schools should teach pupils how to behave and not prepare them just for work, the Duke of Edinburgh said yesterday (David Tytler writes). Presenting the Jerwood Awards for Educational Excellence, he said: "It doesn't matter what people end up doing as long as they are clean, honest and polite." Teachers should also give more emphasis to sport. "It teaches unselfishness, and teaches you to subjugate your own ambitions to the interests of the whole team."

Drugs jury at hotel

A jury was sent to an hotel last night after failing to reach verdicts in the case against four men allegedly involved in a plot to smuggle cannabis worth £10 million through the Soviet Union into Britain (Michael Horsnell writes). The case made legal history when a senior Soviet customs officer gave evidence for the prosecution at Chelmsford Crown Court after an Anglo-Soviet agreement over the exchange of drugs information. The jury resumes deliberations today.

Safari death inquiry

Kenyan police are preparing to launch an inquiry into the murder of Julie Ward more than 15 months after she was backed to death while on safari in a remote game park, according to her father Mr John Ward. He is flying back to Britain from Nairobi today confident that police are now ready to begin an investigation. He and a private detective have been searching for clues in ponds near where his daughter's abandoned vehicle was found.

Labour orders rerun of St Helens ballot

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Labour Party leaders decided yesterday to rerun a Merseyside selection contest in which a sitting MP was ousted after allegations of ballot-rigging.

The move came in spite of a threat from the local St Helens South constituency party to take Labour to court to block a second ballot.

Mr Gerry Birmingham was deselected last month and replaced as candidate by Mr Brian Green, deputy leader of St Helens Council.

The local party has denied that ballot-rigging took place and threatened a High Court injunction to prevent a rerun on the grounds that it would amount to being found guilty without trial.

However, Mr Larry Whitty, Labour's general secretary, said after yesterday's meeting of the party's National Executive Committee: "It is totally unsafe for us to rely on that ballot result."

"There is discrepancy in the ballot papers which casts doubt on the totality of the ballot. The most obvious explanation is that the ballot was

tampered with." The ballot will not be reorganized until after Labour's organization committee on January 22 has considered the local party's letter and any further submissions they or Mr Green care to make.

That is likely to encourage them to hold off from legal action.

However, the NEC agreed yesterday that the prima facie evidence of rigging was clear-cut, and the decision in principle to rerun the ballot was taken with little opposition.

The NEC's move comes as Mr Frank Field, another Merseyside MP, hopes to get a rerun of the reselection process in his Birkenhead constituency. He was ousted in favour of Mr Paul Davies, the Transport and General Workers' Union official.

Mr Field is expected to present alleged evidence of Militant infiltration in his and other Wirral constituencies to the organization committee in January.

Proof of Militant activity could result in a new ballot.

EX 1120 150

City office cleaners to be deported after Home Office raid

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

More than half of the 64 cleaning staff arrested by police and immigration officials in a Home Office operation at BP's City of London offices yesterday declared illegal immigrants or given notice of deportation.

The 64 were part of a cleaning force of 200 working at the office for two to three hours each night at £3 an hour and employed by Initial Contract Services, which has a contract with BP. Twenty-seven immigration officials and 38 officers from the City of London police took part in the operation at BP's Moorgate offices on Tuesday which netted 21 men and 43 women, almost all from West Africa. Fifty were from Nigeria, six from Ghana, five from Sierra Leone, two from Gambia and one from Jamaica.

Last night, the police said that 20 people had been found to be illegal immigrants and would be deported and another 19 had also been served with notice of deportation for immigration rule breaches. Ten people received cautions, two had been released and the rest were still being

questioned. Yesterday a spokesman for Initial, the largest cleaning company in the country, said that it would review procedures to see if there were any loopholes which needed to be plugged. The company took on staff with personal details including date of birth, address and National Insurance number.

● The police raid on the offices of BP highlights how firms, often unwittingly, are increasingly relying on immigration offenders to fill unpopular and unskilled jobs (Jamie Dettmer writes).

It provides further confirmation of Immigration Service warnings of the ease with which tens of thousands of illegal immigrant workers are evading detection and deportation by fraudulently obtaining National Insurance numbers and other official "proof" of rights of residence. Immigration officers fear that tens of thousands of immigration offenders from West Africa and the Indian sub-continent have managed to obtain false identities because of a loophole in the law which makes it possible to get the foundation for a complete "official" personality within 48 hours for an initial outlay of £5 - the cost of a copy of a

birth certificate. With such a copy, an immigration offender can obtain a passport, a National Insurance number, a bank account and credit cards - a whole new identity which allows the offender to get a legal job and enjoy nearly all the other benefits of citizenship.

According to a confidential Immigration Service report, a copy of which is with *The Times*, officers prefer to avoid raids such as the one at BP because of lack of manpower and resources.

The report says: "In resource terms, they are heavily manpower demanding both on the day of

● One operator charges £4,000 for comprehensive package of flight and false documents ●

the operation but also for many days or weeks subsequently when they cause serious overloading in our caseworking system."

Big operations also have little deterrent effect, according to the report. "By way of illustration, an operation against a school in 1988 did not have

the effect of forcing similar dubious establishments out of the market: on the contrary, within weeks, another six "dubious" educational establishments were identified as having opened for business." The records of the school mentioned in the report showed that 5,000 students were enrolled in the space of six years. Nearly all of the students enrolled as a means of evading immigration controls.

Several criminal gangs, which have links with some dishonest travel agents in London, provide an almost comprehensive package for immigrants. They will help them get into Britain and provide them with the documents to remain. Some of these operators provide false passports. One Asian gang based around Southall, west London, charges immigrants £4,000 for a flight and false documents.

Most operators, many of them mainly from Ghana and Nigeria, use the simple method of obtaining a copy of a birth certificate, almost always of someone who has died. That loophole in the law has been available for the unscrupulous for years. It was described in 1971 by Frederick

Forsyth in his thriller, *The Day of the Jackal*. A birth certificate copy can be obtained at the Central Register of Births and Deaths at St Catherine's House in London within 48 hours. A fraudster wanting a copy of a dead person's birth certificate does not have to search through graveyards for names or even to scoundge notices in newspapers. All he has to do is to look through the registers at St Catherine's House and find the name of a dead person with roughly the age of the offender who needs the document.

One search alone this year by officials of the registers, which concentrated on some common names, suggested that there had been 3,300 abuses.

Last December, the Government published a Green Paper recommending ways of tightening up on the birth certificate abuses. It argued that applicants for copies should have to say why they want one and to provide various other proofs of identity.

A White Paper along those lines is likely to be published in the spring. By then thousands more may have charged through the loophole.

GMC disciplinary hearing

Cheques for kidney treatment 'paid into a personal account'

By John Young

Cheques made out by the Turkish Embassy to the National Kidney Centre, a registered charity in London, were paid into the personal account of a Harley Street specialist, a General Medical Council disciplinary hearing was told yesterday.

Mr Kenneth Westall, a development consultant, said that in July last year he had taken a post at the dialysis centre in Fairholme Gardens, Finchley, north London, "on a freelance basis" to assist Dr Raymond Crockett.

Dr Crockett, a nephrologist, is one of three leading medical practitioners facing charges of professional misconduct in connection with alleged payments to kidney donors last year. The other two are Mr Michael Bewick, a transplant surgeon and Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist. All three deny the charges.

Mr Westall told the hearing that from 1981 he was marketing manager for American Medical Insurance, which ran a private hospital in Harrow, west London, where he met Dr Crockett. He later met Mr Bewick while working for the Devonshire Hospital in the West End of London.

He had, he said, probably been instrumental in getting them to work together at the Devonshire in about 1984.

He was later employed by Medical Centres International who were engaged in hospital construction and who owned the MCI Clinic in Ealing, West London. There, both Dr Crockett and Mr Bewick had become involved in a renal transplant programme.

At the clinic he had met Mr Joyce when live transplant operations were taking place. Mr Joyce and Mr Bewick worked together, the former being responsible for the removal of the kidney from the donor and the latter for its

transplant into the recipient. Dr Crockett was involved on all occasions as the nephrologist, he said.

From 1987 there had been a big increase in the number of Turks coming to London for transplant operations, not only at the MCI clinic but at four or five centres, including the Cromwell Hospital in west London. From October 1987 to about May or June 1988 about 18 or 19 patients had come for operations.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, for the GMC, asked him: "Who met their expenses?" Mr Westall replied: "They were paid exclusively by various government departments in Turkey with one exception, the first patient who was a private patient."

All the patients were suffering from renal failure and were usually accompanied by a close relative.

In cases of live donor transplants, it was those relatives who had agreed to become the donors.

In each case the Turkish Embassy in London paid a deposit of £25,000 to cover the cost of dialysis, the operation and the surgeons' fees.

Dr Crockett would submit his own bill while Mr Bewick's bill usually covered Mr

Dr Crockett's. Submitted his own bill, GMC told.

Dr Crockett's. Submitted his own bill, GMC told.

Joyce's fee and those of the anaesthetists and nurses.

In June 1988, the renal unit at the MCI clinic closed because of financial difficulties and the Turkish patients were transferred to the National Kidney Centre, where Mr Westall said he was offered employment on a freelance basis as an assistant to Dr Crockett.

He said he was asked by Dr Crockett to see that cheques from the Turkish Embassy were made out to the National Kidney Centre/Dr R E Crockett because they were to be paid into a separate account. Last December he was given two such cheques which he deposited in the account held jointly by Dr Crockett and his wife at the National Westminster Bank, Station Road, St Johns Wood.

At that time Dr Crockett was about to go to Switzerland for the Christmas holiday and he gave Mr Westall his account number and the address of the branch. Dr Crockett gave a medical card to every Turkish patient who had been operated on with the names of people to be contacted in an emergency and their telephone numbers. One of those was Mr Ata Nur Kunter, one of three brothers who have been described as "kidney brokers".

Earlier the hearing was told by a 28-year-old man from Istanbul that he felt he had been "sentenced to death" by the removal of a kidney in a London hospital.

Mr Coskun Yenici, formerly employed as a driver, was asked by Mr Anthony Arlidge QC, for Dr Crockett, if he had been warned that the operation carried some risk of death. He said that if he had known about the risk and the pain he would not have come.

The hearing continues today.

Young blacksmith makes sparks fly in the City



Miss Hilary Cook fashioning a piece of iron firescreen at the forge in the Whitbread Brewery in the City of London yesterday. Miss Cook, a blacksmith aged 20, won first prize of £150 for wrought ironwork in National Westminster Bank's projects award scheme for Rural Development Commission trainees.

Dismissed executive wins back bank job

Merrill Lynch, the international banking group, has been ordered by an industrial tribunal to find a job within six weeks for a former vice-president who was dismissed.

The company was also ordered to pay the salary of Miss Tammy Menteshvili for the seven months since she was dismissed after working for the company for 17 years.

Mr Keith Basingthwaite, chairman of the tribunal, condemned the treatment of Miss Menteshvili, aged 35, who was told she was being made redundant because of cost cuts at the company, which made a \$463 million (£275 million) profit last year.

Merrill Lynch said last night it was considering an appeal.

Officers in Europe drug fight

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

British police officers could be stationed in every European capital to liaise on international intelligence and investigations under a new declaration on greater police co-operation to be signed tomorrow.

The declaration, to be announced at the end of a two-day ministerial meeting of the Trevi group (the European Community initiative against terrorism and organized crime) in Paris, includes a package of proposals for greater cooperation after 1992.

It includes a study of a Europe-wide computer base of wanted criminals and more exchanges of terrorist intelligence. The Trevi conference will also look at immigration policies throughout the EC

and the possibility of a European visa for foreign visitors. The British will continue to press for drugs intelligence units and moves towards a European-wide unit.

Proposals for a computer database and a European visa are said by Home Office sources to be in their infancy. EC forensic scientists are due to meet next year to agree common standards for DNA testing so that results can be used throughout Europe.

The view in Whitehall is that the terrorism threat has not diminished in spite of changes in East-West relations. The Middle East and groups such as the IRA continue to pose a threat.

A number of drugs liaison officers are working in The Netherlands, Spain and Portugal. An officer is also attached to a French anti-terrorist unit in Paris. The Spanish and West Germans have officers in London.

● Dutch police have identified a British man arrested in connection with a possible IRA shooting incident in Antwerp but will not release his surname (Mark Fuller writes).

Belgian authorities were preparing an extradition order for Mr Anthony Patrick "K", aged 26, who was remanded yesterday charged with the illegal possession of arms.

A search is continuing for Peter McNally, who is believed to have been involved in the shooting incident.

Patten issues rural strategy as parks review announced

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

The future of Britain's national parks is to undergo fundamental review in the light of the growing pressures they face, from mass tourism to the decline of hill farming.

The Countryside Commission announced the review yesterday at a London conference celebrating the parks' fortieth anniversary, where Mr Christopher Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, set out the basis of his own strategy on rural planning.

Mr Patten has turned his back on the radical and bitterly criticized idea of Mr Nicholas Ridley, his predecessor, to scrap planning controls for farmers who wish to develop new businesses such as clay pigeon shoots and riding centres, but he still wants the rural economy to be developed in new ways, as long as the development is "balanced".

Both of yesterday's announcements are likely to

be of central importance to the future of the countryside in Britain.

The national parks review, the first for nearly 20 years, will be carried out over the next 12 months by an independent panel chaired by Professor Ron Edwards, the Welsh regions' chairman of the National Rivers Authority.

It will look at how areas such as the Lake District or Snowdonia can cope with the millions of visitors who yearly erode footpaths with feet and jam the roads with cars.

It will also examine who should pay for the increasing cost of upkeep of the parks - £2million a year to maintain footpaths in the Lake District alone - and how hill farmers, whose activities give the upland parks their characteristic landscape, can be kept going in the face of the increasing unprofitability of their business.

Sir Derek Barber, the chair-

man of the Countryside Commission, said yesterday: "In many respects, the national parks are under greater threat than at any time since their establishment." The inquiry panel will report to the commission at the end of next year, for proposals which will be put to the Government early in 1991.

Mr Patten yesterday lavished praise on the national parks, saying they were "amongst our greatest treasures". He said their future would be a priority topic for next year's environment White Paper.

He chose the anniversary to release a draft of future policy guidance for countryside planning as a whole, bringing present policy statements together in one document, which made clear he had abandoned the deregulatory approach Mr Ridley had advanced in a consultation paper earlier this year.

Cliff motorway, page 4

Plea for immediate police inquiry into war criminals

By Michael Evans and David Sapsted

The Government was challenged yesterday to order immediate police investigations of suspected Nazi war criminals living in Britain and not to wait until Parliament had passed legislation permitting prosecutions.

Although the Cabinet has yet to approve the idea of legislation to hold war crime trials, Nazi hunters were adamant that those on their lists should not be allowed to flee the country before an investigation begins. However, it emerged yesterday that even if the Government went ahead with the legislation after Tuesday's Commons endorsement, it could be a long time before prosecutions were brought.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has not seen any of the evidence gathered by Sir Thomas Hetherington, the former Director of Public Prosecutions, and Mr William Chalmers, the former Crown Agent in Scotland, during their official war crimes in-

quiry. It is considered unlikely the CPS will see the evidence until legislation is passed. Mr Allan Green, the Director of Public Prosecutions, will then decide on the validity of the evidence and may order separate police inquiries before deciding to prosecute.

The Simon Wiesenthal Centre, which handed the Government a list of 17 suspected war criminals three years ago, is convinced that 10 are still resident in Britain and wants investigations to begin as soon as possible.

Among the Nazis alleged to be living in Britain are members of the infamous murder squad, Ypatinga Buras. The alleged crimes include the massacre of more than 250,000 Lithuanian Jews. Many of the suspects are Lithuanians and Latvians allegedly recruited into SS death squads.

A number of the suspected war criminals have died. They include:

● Mikhail Sulyma, who lived in Bradford. The Russians alleged he served with the Nazi police in the Ukraine

● Stanislov Zvarich, alleged to have murdered babies in front of their mothers, who died in Bolton in 1984.

● Vladistov Dering, an Auschwitz doctor who allegedly carried out experiments on young Jewish women. He had a practice in Harley Street and died in the 1960s.

● Judeas Krivickas, accused of mass murder in Lithuania.

● Andre Pestrak, who died earlier this year.

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Library's last-minute move saves papers for nation

In a last-minute move, the British Library has saved an incomparable archive of English state papers from being split up at auction.

The Trumbull Papers, estimated at up to £2.25 million, include letters from James I, Charles I and II, Sir Francis Bacon, John Donne, Dryden and Pope. They were scheduled for sale at Sotheby's today by Lord Downshire, who inherited from his uncle this year.

Yesterday afternoon, how-

ever, Lord Downshire agreed to withdraw the entire collection and sell it to the nation.

Mr Roy Davies, Sotheby's head of manuscripts, said: "The British Library approached us, saying they would like to make an offer. The outcome is very satisfactory as far as my client is concerned, as there is a tax advantage in selling to the nation, which the owner wouldn't have gained at auction."

Funds have come from the

SALEROOM
by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

British Library and the National Heritage Memorial Fund, and the owner can claim relief on his tax bill.

The news was greeted with elation throughout the manuscript world. Dr Christopher Kitchen, Assistant Secretary at the Royal Commission on

Historical Manuscripts, said: "We are delighted it has been possible to keep it together."

Mr Michael Borrie, the British Library's manuscript librarian, said: "Its dispersal would have been one of the greatest blows to the national heritage in recent years." The library would only pay of the amount gained by Lord Downshire. "It was reasonable and fair."

Mr Brian Smith, secretary of the Royal Commission on Historic Manuscripts had said

a break-up of the papers would be an "act of vandalism". The archive once belonged to William Trumbull, British Resident in Brussels at the beginning of the eighteenth century, and his grandson Sir William Trumbull, Ambassador at Paris and Constantinople.

Christmas gift fever inflated prices during a spate of mid-life-value sales in London yesterday. A pair of Van Cleef & Arpels diamond tassel earrings worn by Maria Callas,

the soprano, quadrupled their estimate at Christie's in London, selling for £50,600. A Victorian sapphire and diamond necklace doubled its estimate, for £57,200.

Victorian paintings sold well at Sotheby's. The top price of £62,700 was paid for William Shayer Sur's "Village Politicians" (estimate £18,000 to £25,000).

Two private Japanese buyers swept up the bulk of top lots at Sotheby's sale of Berlin paintings on porcelain.

Outrage at Dover road decision that will 'destroy landscape both visually and in terms of its tranquility'

Dual carriageway to cross White Cliffs

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

A dual carriageway road is to be built along the top of the White Cliffs of Dover.

The road - linking Dover to the Channel Tunnel entrance near Folkestone - will run only 200 yards from Shakespeare Cliff, in a scheme which conservationists say will destroy the landscape that is most powerfully symbolic of England.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, and Mr Christopher Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, have rejected an alternative route that would have saved the landscape at an estimated additional cost of £11 million.

Their decision brought a mixture of astonishment and anger from the leaders of conservation organizations, who had gathered in London yesterday for a conference celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the national parks at which Mr Patten restated the Government's commitment to the countryside.

Miss Fiona Reynolds, assistant director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said: "This is an outrageous decision. The White Cliffs of Dover make up one of the most important landmarks in England, and to destroy it visually at the same time as bowing to the pressures for ever more and bigger roads, is the best indicator of the frailty of the Government's commitment to the environment."

Dame Jennifer Jenkins, chairman of the National

Trust, said: "There are times when the national vision must come before short-term financial considerations. We are extremely disappointed. The landscape will be totally destroyed, both visually and in terms of its tranquility."

Sir Derek Barber, chairman of the Countryside Commission, said: "We lobbied most vigorously against this and we cannot be other than very sorry."

The new road, four-and-a-half miles of an upgraded version of the A20 from Dover to Court Wood, will cut a swath through the open downland behind the cliffs, designated as heritage coast.

Mr Parkinson and Mr Patten have confirmed the view of the public inquiry inspector, Brigadier R.M. Merrell, that the route was "superior to the alternatives".

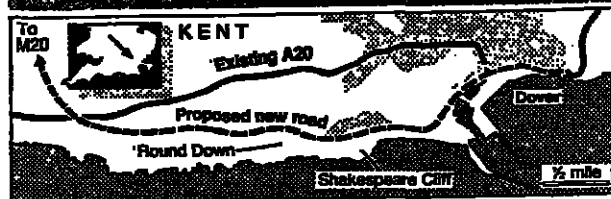
Opponents had suggested widening the existing A20 much further inland, with a three-quarter-mile tunnel

under Dover's Western Heights, which would have added £11 million to the Department of Transport's estimated £24 million cost.

Mr Parkinson said: "We are on target to complete the new A20 between Folkestone and Dover by the time the Channel tunnel opens." Although the decision had "not been an easy one", Mr Parkinson said that the published proposals for the White Cliffs route were satisfactory.

But the National Trust's director-general, Mr Angus Stirling, said: "This is exactly the kind of development that should not be taking place, if as a nation we are trying to care for the best of our countryside."

"It is extremely disappointing that the Government was not prepared to save a landscape of such great symbolic significance by paying the extra £11 million, which would, in a few years' time, have seemed a trifling sum."



Mr Arland Kingston, the National Trust regional director, contemplating the new road scheme near the Shakespeare Cliffs at Dover yesterday.

EC report says Britain abused transport scheme

From Michael Banyon, Brussels

Britain has systematically abused a scheme to improve transport in the European Community by using money sent from Brussels as a substitute for national spending rather than adding the funds to British taxpayers' money already set aside.

That was alleged in a report published yesterday by the Court of Auditors, the independent watchdog body whose annual report is virtually the only means used in the Community

for keeping a check on fraud. The report alleges that Britain was paid £7 million from Community funds in 1988 to accelerate or expand transport projects. However, the auditors could find no additional spending on infrastructure projects. The report said EC money for the Sidcup bypass or the Maidstone to Ashford road in Kent did not increase the budgets of the regional authorities concerned.

It said: "The Community contribution is in practice appropriated in aid of the general Department of Trans-

port vote. In consequence, it does not stimulate any increase in the roads programme but acts only as a subvention to the general funds of the department."

A Treasury spokesman yesterday defended the practice, and insisted that EC funds "enable public expenditure in the UK to be higher than would otherwise be the case".

The report complained that EC funds for roads did not increase the ceiling for specific departmental projects, but merely reduced the costs

falling on county ratepayers. Britain was not alone in this abuse. West Germany and Ireland did the same.

The report also criticized Britain for not giving priority to transport links that were vital to the Irish Republic.

However, it praised Britain for trying to prevent its sheepmeat farmers from claiming excessive ewe premiums by insisting that they systematically report all natural losses of ewes, thus making it more difficult for them to exaggerate the number of eligible ewes they had.

Award winner to compare British youth with Japan's

A British teacher at the Tohoku University, Japan, is the winner of this year's Charles Douglas-Horne Memorial Award. Dr Graham McMaster will receive a grant of up to £25,000, which includes a £10,000 sponsorship from *Asahi Shimbun*, the leading Japanese daily newspaper.

The subject of this year's award, sponsored by a trust set up in memory of the former editor of *The Times*, is a comparison between the development of Japanese and British children and teenagers. Dr McMaster can use the grant to study the subject, after which he will be expected to present a written work.

Dr McMaster, who has been teaching at Tohoku University since 1980, is well placed

to research a subject which is particularly topical at a time when Japan's economic dominance is familiar, although little is known generally about the upbringing and aspirations of Japanese children compared with British children.

Sir Edward Cazalet, QC, chairman of the trustees, said yesterday: "From a highly distinguished field of applicants, we are extremely pleased to have been able to nominate Dr Graham McMaster for this year's award. With Japan now the world's largest creditor nation, this comparative study should be a fascinating one."

"What can each of us learn from the other? How fundamental is the difference between us in parental and scholastic attitudes? To what extent has Japanese family life and its educational system been responsible for Japan's current social stability and its economic miracle?"

To answer these and many related questions, Dr McMaster can be expected to carry out the most thorough research and then make a highly perceptive assessment of all the essential issues," Sir Edward said.

Dr McMaster, who was educated at Perse School, Cambridge, and Trinity Hall, has wide teaching experience, abroad, including periods at the Zagreb and Teheran universities. He is deeply involved in Japanese and British education, not least because his daughters, Vesna, aged 18, and Farja, aged 11, move between the two systems of education.

Dr McMaster said: "I have to acknowledge the contribution of my wife and children to my work on the award topic. It would be truthful to say that I am drawing upon, expressing, sometimes appropriating, what is really shared experience."

"I'm conscious that a good deal of work has already been

done in interpreting Japanese education to foreign audiences. It's a familiar topic in journalism, and there is quite a lot of academic work of a high order, especially in the United States where there is a longer-standing relationship," he said.

"Nevertheless, the work that I expect to do will to a certain extent be different. I don't think there has been a work specifically devoted to the comparison of the British and Japanese systems. Work on the American-Japanese comparison has come from very different starting points."

Dr McMaster said he was anxious to update any previous work on the subject because there had been so many changes in Japan and Britain in the past decade.

"In particular, there are now quite large numbers of people who are crossing over between systems, which will doubtless give rise to interesting comparisons," he said.

Dr McMaster said he hoped his perspective would be different from that of academic educationalists because he has worked on literature from a largely historical or social point of view and it will be from the standpoint of a cultural critic and interpreter that he will base his study.

He had approached English and Japanese literature from an historical and social standpoint, and he intended to tackle the study as a cultural critic and interpreter.

Anyone wishing to contact Dr McMaster may do so by writing care of *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The award is presented annually and commemorates Charles Douglas-Horne, editor of *The Times* from 1982 until he died of cancer in 1983. The aim of the trust, set up by

public donation, is to sponsor one person each year providing the financial independence to carry out necessary research into a particular subject in domestic or international affairs. Objectivity and an absence of political motive are essential criteria."

Dr McMaster was chosen for this year's award by Sir Edward and an advisory panel. The trust patrons include the Prince of Wales, who is president, the Prime Minister, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Duke of Kent.

The trustees are Sir Edward, Mrs Jessica Douglas-Horne, Mr Bamber Gascoigne, Mr David Dimbleby and Mr Charles Wilson, editor of *The Times*.

After making the application under the 1982 Forfeiture Act, Mrs Sutherland, of Blairville Road, Glasgow, said that Mr Sutherland best her regularly, sexually assaulted her, drank to excess and her two daughters were terrified of him. He died without leaving a will.

Killer of husband can inherit his estate

A woman convicted of the culpable homicide of her violent husband was yesterday allowed to inherit his estate valued at about £32,000 (Kerry Gill writes).

Lord Murray, in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, ruled that Mrs Anne Sutherland, aged 26, could benefit from her husband's estate under legislation which allows a judge to take account of the behaviour of the deceased.

Mrs Sutherland was convicted at the High Court in

Glasgow last year of strangling her husband, Peter, with a pair of tights. She was placed on probation for three years after the jury asked for leniency.

After making the application under the 1982 Forfeiture Act, Mrs Sutherland, of Blairville Road, Glasgow, said that Mr Sutherland best her regularly, sexually assaulted her, drank to excess and her two daughters were terrified of him. He died without leaving a will.

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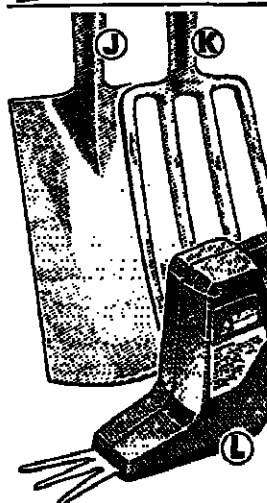


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Boach PBM 4.5V 1/4" (10mm) Single Speed Cordless Reversing Drill/Screwdriver (Illustrated) ⑥	WAS £42.95	£6.00
Boach PBM 7.2V 1/4" (10mm) Two Speed Cordless Reversing Drill/Screwdriver with Case and Bits	WAS £59.95	£5.00
Boach PF250 All Purpose Saw	WAS £69.95	£10.00
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Black & Decker A8168 10 Piece HSS Metal Drill Bits in Drum	WAS £2.49	50p
Black & Decker A8001 Deluxe 31 Piece Craftsman Drill Bit Set (Illustrated) ⑥	WAS £39.99	£10.00
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Black & Decker W100 Power Weeder (Blue model only). Available while stocks last (Illustrated) ④	WAS £19.95	£5.00
Simplegrow Beginner's Bonsai Kit, Comprising terracotta pots, germination kit, drip trays and booklet	WAS £4.99	£1.00

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Low potential damages no bar to legal aid, judges rule

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Legal aid should not be denied to someone just because any damages they might receive would be so low as to make granting public money wholly uneconomic, the High Court ruled yesterday.

In a test case with wide implications for actions against multi-national companies, two High Court judges ruled that legal aid had been wrongly cut off to a claimant seeking damages over the anti-arthritis drug Open because of a "flawed" decision.

Yesterday the judges rejected an argument by the legal aid authorities that the damages likely to be recovered by an alleged victim of the drug justified a refusal of legal aid.

The legal aid authorities had said the damages would be so low as to make the granting of legal assistance "wholly uneconomic".

Mr Justice Roch said, however, that the economic ques-

tion should not be the sole, or necessarily the decisive, factor. The economic argument would place multi-national corporations in a position of advantage over individual claimants which they ought not to enjoy.

"Were that to be so, then all the claimants in the Open litigation should have had their legal aid certificates withdrawn as soon as the probable cost of that litigation was known, because it is quite clear that the estimated cost of pursuing the claims to judgment is many times greater than the global value placed on all the claims of the qualifying plaintiffs," he said.

The judge was giving judgment in a case brought by Mrs Rita McKenna, aged 54, of Winsford, Cheshire - one of hundreds of claimants seeking compensation against the American drug giant Eli Lilly - for reconsideration of her legal aid application. Later,

Mr Jeffrey Fletcher, solicitor for Mrs McKenna, who will now have her legal aid application reconsidered, said the ruling was of great significance not only to his client and other alleged Open victims, but also to all individuals who took on the might of the multi-nationals and big commercial concerns in attempts to win compensation.

Lord Justice Neill and Mr Justice Roch held that Mrs McKenna was entitled to have her legal assistance claim reconsidered because the authorities discharged her legal aid certificate in the mistaken belief that she had been offered a sum of money in settlement of her case against the drug company.

Lord Justice Neill said that at the time no final assessment of damages could have been made because the medical evidence was still incomplete. "In these circumstances it seems to me that the decision-

making process was flawed in the sense that a decision was based on a demonstrably mistaken view of the facts," he said.

Mr Justice Roch agreed. He specifically rejected arguments by the legal aid authorities that Mrs McKenna should be denied legal aid because, even if she was successful in her claim against Eli Lilly, the amount she would receive would be so low as to make the court proceedings "a wholly uneconomic process".

Mrs McKenna was one of 1,300 alleged Open victims offered £2.275 million in December 1987 by Eli Lilly in settlement of their claims.

She and the other claimants were each offered an average of £2,000 on the basis of a doctor attributing their injuries to the taking of Open, unless Eli Lilly had warned of a possible side-effect. Several hundred other claimants were fighting their cases separately.

Thatcher backs environment centre

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has given her enthusiastic support to the proposed Cambridge Environment Centre, for which the computer company IBM hopes to raise £14 million from British industry.

In a letter to Dr Richard Grove, director of studies in geography at Churchill College, Cambridge, and one of the academics behind the scheme, Mrs Thatcher says that the Government fully supports the concept, adding: "I am heartened to learn of

this initiative and hope that the effort of those concerned will bear fruit."

IBM is to join Cambridge University in inviting other British blue-chip companies to fund the centre, whose creation is likely to give a considerable boost to Britain's chances of hosting the proposed European Environment Agency, as Cambridge is the Government's chosen site.

Mrs Thatcher says in her letter: "We firmly believe that the presence of the inter-

disciplinary centre in Cambridge will strengthen our case for the city to be the site for the new European Environment Agency. We shall be pressing the case for the Cambridge site in the forthcoming European discussions."

"The Government has repeatedly stressed the importance it attaches to greater collaboration between education and industry."

The centre will address environmental problems such as global climate change

through economic, social and political studies as well as through science. It will combine the educational and research resources of the university with those of a cluster of environmental research organizations in or near the city.

Dr Grove said yesterday: "We are thrilled to have the personal backing of the Prime Minister. We think this augurs extremely well for the future of environmental research in Britain."

Surgery puts lost arm back in action

MARC ASPLAND



Mr Michael Brough, a consultant plastic surgeon, watching Mr David Gardner exercise his arm, restored after being severed.

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

Advances in plastic surgery, from operations on babies in the womb to the laboratory development of blood vessels and bone, will revolutionize treatment for victims of accidents and deformities, a pioneer in the speciality said yesterday.

However, Britain was in danger of being overtaken in the field because of lack of government support for research, Professor Angus McGrouther said.

As Professor McGrouther described the possibilities, Mr David Gardner demonstrated the realities by performing 50 press-ups on one arm, which was

severed in an accident when his motorcycle was in collision with a car, and then restored. Mr Gardner, aged 33, of Chingford, Essex, had made "a quite extraordinary recovery" after losing the arm above the elbow. Professor McGrouther, of University College Hospital, London, said. The accident happened eight years ago and since then Mr Gardner has had a series of operations by other surgeons to restore almost complete function to the arm and hand.

Professor McGrouther has been appointed Britain's only professor of plastic surgery and is leading pioneering research at the hospital. It has launched a

campaign, the Phoenix Appeal, to raise £6 million for the new department.

Recent advances in the speciality include the ability to transfer toes to replace lost fingers, the creation of a breast from abdominal tissue to benefit cancer patients who have had a mastectomy and the use of leg bones to reconstruct damaged jaws.

Mr Michael Brough, a consultant plastic surgeon at the hospital and secretary of the Phoenix Appeal, said it was disgraceful that Britain, despite having trained some of the world's best plastic surgeons, had only one professor in the speciality.

Population trends

Most bridal pairs live together first

By David Cross

More than half of couples who marry live together first, the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS) disclosed yesterday in a report.

Dr Kathleen Kiernan, of the Family Policy Studies Centre, who helped to write the report, said that living together before marriage was one of the most significant social phenomena of the 1980s and was likely to become more common in the 1990s.

The latest quarterly survey of population trends in the United Kingdom shows that 58 per cent of men and 53 per cent of women had shared a home together before marriage. The number of single women under 50 living with men had trebled between 1979 and 1987, while more divorced men than women had decided to set up home with a partner - 38 per cent, compared with 27 per cent.

Analysing other figures collected for the 1986 and 1987 General Household Surveys, the office calculated that there were about 900,000 unmarried couples living in Britain with more than 400,000 dependent children.

Living together outside marriage was most common

in the South-east and East Anglia (about 16 per cent of the population) and most unusual in Scotland and Wales (9.4 per cent and 7.8 per cent).

The survey showed that the number of weddings in England and Wales last year dropped to 348,000 from 352,000 in 1987; while there were 153,000 divorces, 2,000 more than the previous year.

The population increased by 150,000 to 50.4 million in the middle of last year, and births outside marriage went up to a record 177,000, or 23.6 per cent of all births.

The figures showed that people were deserting the cities for the countryside. Between 1984 and 1988, the main cities lost an average of five people per thousand, while coastal resorts and retirement areas recorded an increase of 12 people per thousand.

Emigration from Britain, with a total of 237,000 last year, was the highest since 1982 and immigration at 216,000 higher than in any of the previous 10 years except for 1985 and 1986.

Population Trends 58 (Winter 1989) Stationery Office (£6.50).

Average annual population growth rate by standard region, mid-1977 to mid-1988

Standard region	Growth rate (per thousand)			Population at mid-1988 (thousands)
	1977-81	1981-84	1984-88	
United Kingdom	1	1	3	57,065
England	1	1	3	47,536
North	-3	-3	-2	3,071
Tyne & Wear	-6	-4	-3	1,131
Remainder	-1	-2	-1	1,940
Yorkshire and Humberside	0	-1	0	4,913
Sth Yorkshire	-1	-3	-2	1,293
W Yorkshire	-1	-2	0	2,057
Remainder	2	2	3	1,564
East Midlands	4	3	6	3,970
East Anglia	9	6	10	2,034
South East	1	2	3	17,344
Greater London	-7	-2	-1	6,735
Remainder	7	5	6	10,609
South West	5	6	10	4,834
West Midlands	1	-1	1	5,207
Metropolitan	-5	-3	3	2,617
Remainder	7	3	6	2,589
North West	-3	-3	-1	6,364
Grtr Manchester	-5	-4	-1	2,578
Merseyside	-8	-7	-7	1,448
Remainder	2	0	2	2,338
Wales	-2	-2	4	2,857
Remainder	-2	-2	3	5,094
Scotland	-8	-8	-8	1,642
Clydesdale	1	0	0	3,452
Remainder	2	3	4	1,578
Nthm Ireland	2	3	4	1,578

Gamekeeper shot by poacher's crossbow

A gamekeeper who disturbed poachers stalking deer early yesterday was shot in the chest by a crossbow bolt.

Mr John Pyle, aged 24, escaped serious injury when the bolt was deflected from his heart by hitting a rib.

He was patrolling Sledmere estate, near Driffield, East Yorkshire, in his Jeep when he saw a light flashing in a wood.

"I drove down a lane towards the light," he said. "No sooner had I stepped out of my jeep when a poacher shone a

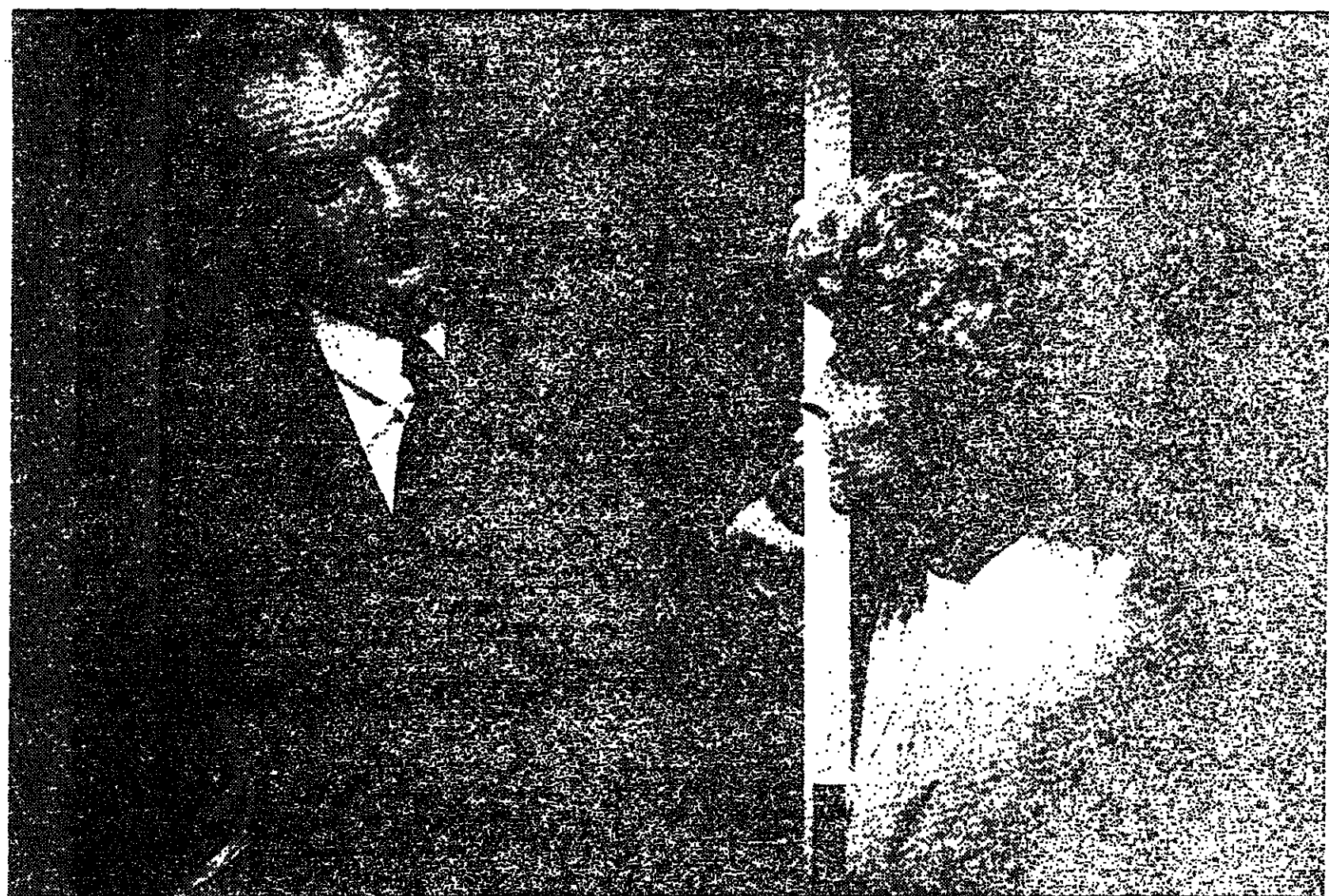
powerful beam into my face and dazzled me.

"Then I felt the crossbow bolt hit me near the heart. Another inch either way and I could have been killed."

Mr Pyle staggered back into his Jeep with the bolt in his chest and drove three miles to a public house in Sledmere, where the landlady gave him first aid after he had removed the bolt himself.

He went to hospital but was later discharged after treatment for superficial injuries.

SOME BURGLARS DON'T HAVE TO BREAK AND ENTER.



A burglar won't go to the trouble of breaking and entering if he can knock and enter.

So always be on your guard when an unexpected man - or even a woman - turns up at your door. And be wary of anyone offering to buy 'antiques', jewellery or furniture on your doorstep. If you want to sell something, get it valued by one or two reputable local dealers of your choosing. And here are some more steps the elderly - and the not-so-elderly can take to reduce the fear of becoming a victim.

1. KEEP THE DOOR CHAIN ON

And ask to see proof of identity before you let a stranger in. If you're still not sure, ring the police.

2. MAKE YOUR HOME SECURE

You can get advice from the crime prevention officer at your local police station. Or get the free booklet shown below.

3. ALWAYS LOCK UP WHEN YOU GO OUT

Even if you're just popping down to the local shops. Most burglaries only take a few minutes and happen when you're out.

4. MAKE YOUR HOME LOOK OCCUPIED

Simple plug-in time switches can switch lights or a radio on and off when you are out. A big turn-off to the burglar who thinks someone is at home.

5. NEVER KEEP TOO MUCH MONEY AT HOME

It's safer in the bank or building society. And it can be earning interest for you.

6. IF YOU NOTICE SIGNS OF A BREAK-IN

Don't try to investigate it yourself. The safest step is to go to a neighbour's house and 'phone the police.

7. WHEN YOU SEE ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS ON YOUR STREET

Report it to the police at once and you could save your neighbours from a possible break-in.

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Audit Commission warning

Drop opposition to education reforms, authorities are told

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Local education authorities should drop their opposition to the Government's education reforms, city technology colleges and grant-maintained schools, the Audit Commission says in a report published today.

The commission says that recalcitrant councils must recognize the changes introduced under the 1988 Education Reform Act. It adds: "Refusing to do so, campaigning against alternative types of provision and refusing to co-operate with the new CTCs or grant-maintained schools, is hard to reconcile with the local authority's duties."

The warning comes as many councils continue to obstruct city technology colleges by refusing to provide services. The Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities has maintained a sustained campaign against the changes.

Local authorities still have an important role in education even though they may have lost their empires, the commission, which sets out its own guidelines for education departments, says.

Mr Howard Davies, controller of the commission, said: "The dominant concern is that many people are not at all sure what the role of the education authority is. I see quite a morale problem building up. It is all exciting at the moment because there is a lot to do but there is a real anxiety

that they may be working themselves out of a job."

The report says that some councils have been so concerned about the loss of their powers that they are "letting schools and colleges operate with the barest minimum of support. Others have such serious doubts about the long-term effects of the reforms that they lack the motivation to make them work. While others 'seek actively to thwart elements of the reforms'."

The report says: "These views may be sincerely held."

The commission says that education authorities should be:

- A leader, giving a vision of what the education service is trying to achieve.
- A partner, supporting schools and colleges, helping them to fulfil the aims.
- A planner of facilities for the future.
- A provider of information, helping people to make informed choices.
- A regulator of quality in schools and colleges.
- A banker, channelling the funds which will allow schools and colleges to deliver.

but the commission cannot support them. The local authority's duty is to promote excellence in education within the law. They should provide information to parents on schools and technical colleges.

The commission says that every authority will have to reorganize its education dep-

artment to cope with the changes, concentrating more on inspecting schools and offering advice to heads and governors, ranging from budget control to the appointment of teachers.

More staff will be required in some areas while savings are made in others, so that eventually overall costs will fall and allow more to be spent on the schools and colleges themselves.

A commission analysis of two neighbouring authorities showed that in a number of areas the costs of one were twice as high as the other's.

Members of education committees will also have to adjust their own attitudes, to think more about the future and the need to maintain standards rather than detailed management. One immediate effect could be a reduction in the number of committee meetings.

The report says that one metropolitan education authority had 37 committees holding 265 meetings in one year at a cost of £200,000 in attendance fees alone, the equivalent to 15 teaching posts. It adds: "This cannot be allowed to go on."

Another had only one education committee meeting seven times a year. The commission says: "It is not clear that the quality of education suffers as a result."

Losing an Empire, Finding a Role - the LEA of the Future, (Stationery Office, £3.50).

Steadying hand for a child of courage

By Libby Jukes

Nine children whose bravery has proved an inspiration to many adults received special awards from the Duchess of York yesterday at a carol service in Westminster Abbey.

However, one of the winners of the Children of Courage awards missed the presentation. Jenna Swales, from Blairgowrie, Tayside, has survived two major heart operations but was unable to collect her medal yesterday because she had influenza.

Her father has said it was the example of her determination that was the key to his own survival in the freezing North Sea after jumping 80ft from the blazing Piper Alpha oil rig.

Among the children receiving medals was India Roffey, aged six, from Staffordshire, who was trapped in the wreckage of her parents' car after it was crushed by an eight-ton steel container. Her father, Mr Carl Roffey, who had a broken back in the accident, said: "India kept me going. I was finding it difficult to breathe, but she kept talking to me, and that kept our spirits up. She was very brave."

Six months ago, Stuart Bowman, aged eight, from Hatfield, Hertfordshire, underwent an operation, which he knew might not have much chance of success, to remove his club feet and extend his congenitally deformed legs with artificial jointed limbs. "We let him make the decision," his father, Mr Ceri Bowman, said.

Although the operation will have to be repeated and he will never walk without crutches, Stuart can now swim 20 metres and attends a normal primary school.

Phillip Lee, aged 14, from Harlow, Essex, has hospital treatment three times a week for chronic asthma and eczema but still works every weekend as a Red Cross volunteer. He



The Duchess of York with Richard Cole, of Belfast, one of the award-winners.

said: "I want to show other people like me that it's not worth letting a disability get you down." Another medal-

winner was Richard Cole, aged five, of Belfast, who was born with a muscle abnormality so crippling he could hardly

move. He had club feet and deformed hands. But he learnt to walk last year and hopes soon to attend ordinary school.

Pesticide poison risk may need reviewing

By Nick Nuttall

Technology Correspondent

Toxicity limits on many widely-used pesticides may need urgent revision after research indicating that birds are at greater risk from poisoning than had been supposed, scientists said yesterday.

Dr Alistair Dawson, of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, (ITE) and scientists at Reading University have discovered that exposure to a "cocktail" of pesticides can dramatically increase an individual chemical's damaging effects.

"The normal method of evaluating the toxicity of pesticides is exposure to a single chemical," Dr Mike Roberts, ITE's director, said.

However, the new findings indicate that "toxicity tests in the future will have to take into account the possibility of the effects of mixtures."

The results have emerged on studies with the red legged partridge, chosen because the bird lives across a wide range of agricultural land and is likely to be exposed to a variety of common pesticides.

Prochloraz, a fungicide, and malathion, an insecticide, are both "fairly safe" for partridges. However, when the birds were exposed to both, scientists noticed a "dramatic increase in the toxicity of the insecticide to partridges."

The teams, whose findings were revealed at the Natural Environment Research Council's annual meeting in London, are now hoping to secure Department of the Environment funding for field tests on a wider range of pesticides.

Rules on school uniforms could break race laws

By Our Education Editor

Schools were warned yesterday that uniform regulations requiring boys to wear caps and girls to wear skirts could make them guilty of racial discrimination under a new code of practice published by the Commission for Racial Equality.

The commission says such rules could unfairly ban Sikh boys whose religion demands that they wear turbans, and that the compulsory wearing of skirts could bar many Muslim girls, as their religion requires them to cover their legs. Such rules would be breaking the law unless they could be justified on educational grounds.

The code also reminds schools that they would be breaking the law if they controlled admissions or segregated pupils on racial grounds.

The commission says that it has received evidence that children from ethnic minorities, particularly Afro-Caribbeans, are excluded from school more often and for longer periods than white children. It reminds schools that any punishment should be exactly the same for all.

Regular testing of all children aged seven, 11, 14 and 16 will soon begin under the National Curriculum and schools are warned to be careful in setting the tests and assessing results.

The code says that schools will be guilty of discrimination if any tests, including intelligence tests, were "culturally biased and result in lower assessments being given to a considerably higher proportion of pupils or students from particular racial groups". The tests would be

considered biased if they assumed a "uniformity" in language, religion, and way of life.

Pupil records must be carefully kept to avoid discrimination but teachers are advised to record where children have been the victims of any racial harassment.

In a foreword to the code, Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, says: "Racial discrimination has no place in the education service."

● Schools are failing to teach mathematics properly to girls and most of them lose interest by the time they are 14, according to a report by the schools' inspectors published yesterday.

The report, based on visits to 55 secondary schools in England between 1985 and 1988, says that girls seem to lack confidence in mathematics and are not helped by lessons which rush through the basics. As a result, they do badly in mathematics examinations compared with boys.

Too few girls continue with mathematics after 16 and the inspectors recommend that schools should do more to make girls feel comfortable with the subject.

They found that many girls feel mathematics lacks humanity and need more time to discuss it with their teachers than boys.

The code says that schools will be guilty of discrimination if any tests, including intelligence tests, were "culturally biased and result in lower assessments being given to a considerably higher proportion of pupils or students from particular racial groups". The tests would be

Aircraft passageways 'should be widened'

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

Aircraft gangways should be widened from 20 to 30 inches to make it easier for passengers to escape in emergencies, according to a report published yesterday by the Civil Aviation Authority.

The recommendation follows completion of a two-year research programme into the behaviour of aircraft passengers in emergencies that was commissioned in the wake of the fire on a British Airways 737 at Manchester Airport in 1985 in which 55 people died.

Researchers from the Applied Psychology Unit of the Cranfield Institute of Technology in Bedfordshire offered cash incentives to over 2,000 volunteers to compete in leaving an aircraft quickly. In the middle, a number fell or were pushed and would have been trapped had the evacuation not been stopped. Bodies are frequently found lying trapped in passageways after aircraft accidents.

The research found that the tendency for people to impede each other in the passageway through the bulkhead could be significantly reduced if the space was 30 inches wide or more.

Accordingly, it would call for a new European requirement to widen the passageways from the current international minimum of 20 to 30 inches. In addition, it would seek international adoption of British standards for access to overwing exits.

The report also said men were more likely to survive an emergency evacuation than women.

● British Aerospace yesterday secured a £25 million contract for the sale of three Advanced Turbo-Prop regional airliners to Biman, the Bangladeshi airline. The deal represents a breakthrough into the Asian market.

Aircraft Evacuations (Civil Aviation Authority, PO Box 41, Chesham, Gloucester GL50 2BN; £3.50 plus £1 postage).

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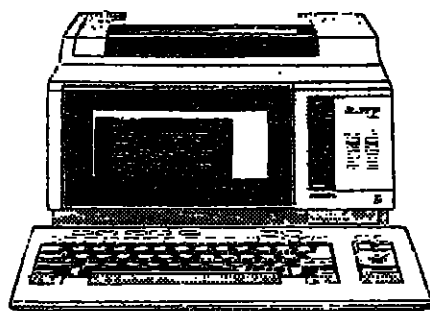


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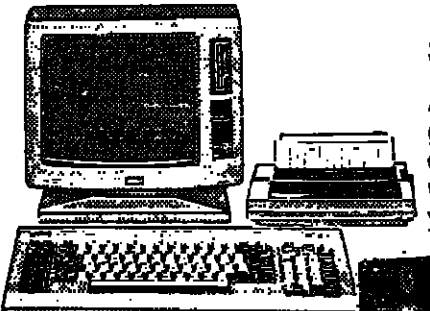
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De Klerk talks over South Africa's future with Mandela

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

President de Klerk of South Africa met Nelson Mandela, the jailed leader of the African National Congress, yesterday at the Head of State's official residence, Tuynhuis, in Cape Town.

However, the meeting does not appear to indicate that the release of Mandela, sentenced to life imprisonment 25 years ago, is any closer.

A terse statement by Mr. Kobie Coetsee, the Minister of Justice, said the meeting was held at Mandela's request. Mr. Coetsee said Mr. de Klerk "welcomed the opportunity since it continued the initiative of his predecessor and also fitted in with Mr. de Klerk's programme to consult with the full spectrum of political opinion concerning the mutual future of all South Africans".

Mr. P.W. Botha, whom Mr. de Klerk succeeded as President in September, met Mandela at Tuynhuis in July last year. He tried to keep it secret and news of the meeting was confirmed reluctantly by

Mr. Coetsee only five days afterwards.

The disclosure that Mr. Botha and Mandela had sat quietly together sipping tea and discussing affairs of state enraged the extreme right-wing white opposition. Its predictable objections to yesterday's meeting will have less effect — South Africans are realizing that under Mr. de Klerk anything can happen.

Mandela's meeting with President de Klerk was attended by Mr. Coetsee and Mr. Gerrit Viljoen, the Minister of Constitutional Development, who has the task of trying to set up the "great indaba" that Mr. de Klerk envisages will map out a structure in which both blacks and whites will share power.

Mr. Coetsee said: "Issues that were explored included ways and means to address current obstacles in the way of meaningful dialogue."

Follow-up talks in the new year are envisaged. He added that further statements at this stage "would serve no effective purpose".

Mandela is believed to be meeting a constant stream of visitors, including Cabinet ministers, at the bungalow in the grounds of a prison at Paarl, near Cape Town, to which he is now confined.

On Tuesday he had a three-hour meeting with Mr. Walter Sisulu, the former ANC secretary-general who was released from life imprisonment in August, and Mr. Sisulu's wife, Albertina. After that meeting, a lawyer, Mr. Dullah Omar, said Mandela did not know why he had not been freed at the same time as Mr. Sisulu and seven other former ANC leaders and emphatically denied suggestions that his continued imprisonment was by choice. "He insists he has the right to be released but is not prepared to beg for his release."

After meeting President Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast earlier this month, Mr. de Klerk stated that Mandela would be freed but would not speculate on when.

America's First Lady joins in festive spirit



Mrs. Barbara Bush, America's First Lady, in a lively mood, joining in the annual Christmas party for children of members of the resident foreign diplomatic corps which was held at the White House. With her, wearing a spotted bow, is Marshall, her granddaughter, aged three and a half.

French keep up war of nerves on defiant Denard

From Gavin Bell, Moroni, Comoros, and Philip Jacobson, Paris

Bob Denard, the mercenary leader, is literally and metaphorically sticking to his guns as a French naval task force closes in on his tropical island stronghold in the Mozambique Channel.

"Colonel" Denard, aged 60, is outwardly defiant, but his will to resist a hostile population in the streets and elite Marine commandos cruising off shore appears to be crumbling.

The use of French troops against Denard and his men was firmly ruled out yesterday in a joint statement by President Mitterrand of France and M. Michel Rocard, his Prime Minister. After the regular weekly meeting of the Cabinet at the Elysée Palace in Paris, a government spokesman in-

dictated that "any idea of French military intervention can be excluded".

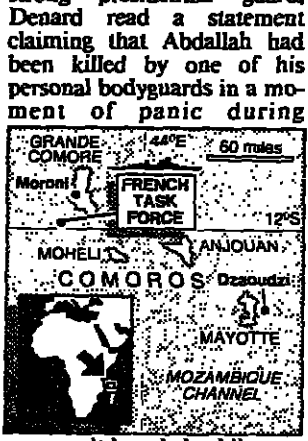
But four French warships which set sail from the island of Mayotte, 120 miles to the south-east, carrying 90 Marine commandos, the equivalent of the British SBS, were reported yesterday to be cruising just over the horizon off Moroni, the Comoros capital.

The military operation, code named "Osiris", is being directed by General Dominique Pannacchioni, the commander of French armed forces in the southern Indian Ocean.

In a sudden switch of tactics, Denard summoned journalists to a press conference at his barracks to deny "the terrible accusations" that he was responsible for the murder of President Ahmed Abdallah on November 26.

Flanked by French and

Belgian mercenary officers and members of the 500-strong presidential guard, Denard read a statement claiming that Abdallah had been killed by one of his personal bodyguards in a moment of panic during



an assault by rebel soldiers.

According to Denard, his men were engaging the attackers when the bodyguard burst in through the President's quarters and "inexplicably" shot him in the

chest with a Soviet assault rifle. An officer of the president's guard then shot the man dead, he said.

The veteran mercenary accused France and South Africa of trying to "chase us from Comoros in disorder", and warned that the deployment of a French "armada" could end in a bloodbath. He gave no indication that he was preparing to quit the island, where he has ruled as the power behind the throne for more than a decade.

His anxiety and uncertainty were evident, however, as he stumbled through his statements, alternately professing his innocence and denouncing his detractors. Diplomats say he is consumed by bitterness towards France.

Having been enlisted by a right-wing government in Paris to restore Abdallah to power in a *coup d'état* in 1978,

he is deeply offended by the resolve of the present socialist administration to oust him.

A source close to daily negotiations with Denard said France was taking a tough line, refusing to accept his conditions for surrender and demanding that he pack his bags and get out.

According to an Elysée spokesman, France exercises no official responsibility in Comoros, but remains accountable for the safety of its own citizens there.

The Government has emphasized that the sizeable build-up of combat troops and military aircraft on a neighbouring island was ordered as a precautionary measure should emergency evacuation of French nationals become necessary.

In the event, there appears to have been no panic among the French community in

Comoros, which is still served by civil airline flights. Official sources in Paris suggest, however, that the Government is quite prepared to continue the war of nerves with Denard until he accepts the weakness of his position.

The man most likely to succeed as President is said to be Mohammed Taki, the former president of the National Assembly who went into exile in France about six years ago when Abdallah amended the Constitution in an apparent attempt to ensure that he was succeeded by Assouf, his younger son.

Diplomatic sources said that as soon as Denard and his band of mercenaries leave, French troops will move in to supervise the transitional period. For Denard, the man who would be king, there remains only the choice of death or dishonour.

New York crows over downfall of hotel queen Helmsley

From Charles Bremner, New York

Mrs. Leona Helmsley, the New York hotel owner and billionaire, won little public sympathy yesterday for the stiff four-year prison sentence and fine she received for evading over \$1 million (about £660,000) in taxes.

The *New York Daily News*, echoing the jeering crowds outside the court on Tuesday, suggested in an editorial that Mrs. Helmsley be forced to wear a notice in prison with the judge's words: "You believed you were above the law and displayed no remorse or contrition." It also demanded she serve the full four years instead of the likely 12 months.

As local newspapers crowded over

the downfall of the woman New York loves to hate, experts estimated that if she loses her appeal, her imprisonment and \$7 million fine would be only the start of her woes. Because of her conviction, the five hotels she owns in New York with her husband, Harry, are expected to lose their alcohol licences, which could inflict bankruptcy on the family company.

Mrs. Helmsley also faces more charges of defrauding New York state of an equivalent amount of tax to that she avoided paying the Government.

If she loses her appeal, Mrs. Helmsley is expected to start her sentence in about six months at Danbury Federal Prison Camp, a medium-security facility for women only 40 miles from Dummellen Hall,

the palatial Connecticut estate at the heart of her case. "We like to keep people close to home," a Bureau of Prisons spokesman said.

The Danbury prison is one of a string of federal camps to which prosperous felons such as Mr. Ivan Boesky, the Wall Street trader, and Mr. Jim Bakker, the television evangelist, have been assigned recently. The prisons have been dubbed "Club Fed" by the media because of the relatively mild conditions.

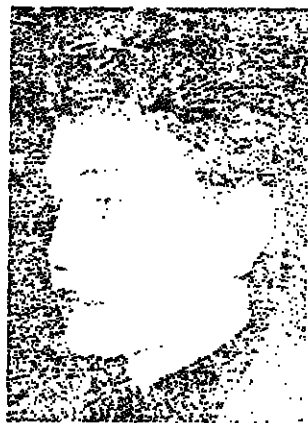
The image is misleading, say inmates, because prisoners are still subject to strict daily rules and routines that govern most aspects of their lives.

"The camp is a work camp. There are 387 acres, all of which must be

maintained," a spokesman at Danbury said yesterday. "All 150 of the inmates work. Age is not a factor."

Mrs. Helmsley, who is renowned for her fastidious and expensive taste in clothes, would wear khaki shirts and trousers and share a cubicle with at least two prisoners. Food remains institutional and prisoners are not allowed to conduct any business, a restriction that could rebound heavily on the Helmsley empire since Mrs. Helmsley is its chief executive. Her husband, who is aged 80, was excused trial on the same tax charges because of his mental frailty.

After being released, Mrs. Helmsley, aged 69, would work for several months at a home for the babies of drug-addicted mothers in Harlem.



Leona Helmsley: Facing new charges of evading taxes.

Indian kidnap victim freed in exchange for militants

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

Kashmiri militants last night released the kidnapped daughter of the Indian Home Minister after the Government gave in to all their demands.

The move ended five days of tense negotiations that appear to have set a dangerous precedent.

Dr. Rubiya Sayeed, aged 23, was freed soon after five Kashmiri militants were released from prison. Her father, Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, the first Muslim to be appointed Home Minister, said the kidnapping was totally needless and promised to give priority to the Kashmir crisis.

Talks with the militants, conducted through intermediaries, broke down on Tuesday night just as senior ministers

were claiming that a breakthrough had been achieved.

The doctor was seized at gunpoint in Srinagar on Friday as she travelled home from the hospital where she works.

Although the Kashmir state government was said to be in charge of negotiations for her release, Delhi was obviously primarily responsible for the decision to give in to the militants' demands. Mr. I.K. Gujral, the External Affairs Minister, and Mr. Arif Mohammed Khan, the Energy Minister, were sent to Srinagar after the breakdown of negotiations on Tuesday.

The freed men did not attempt to go into hiding; instead they headed openly for

their homes, unfettered by the security forces.

Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the Prime Minister, drove to Mufti Sayeed's home in Delhi soon after his daughter was released. "The Home Minister and all of us have undergone a great ordeal and a lot of anxiety," he said.

Mufti Sayeed declared that the situation in Kashmir should be given top priority because there had been no law and order there for the past two years. He hinted that he might favour the dismissal of the state government and the imposition of direct rule from Delhi. He said that "various options" were available to the Government, which would now consider them.

French system attacked

Judge hits at dolts on jury

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

The inner workings of French justice are often a mystery to outsiders, so it may be helpful to learn from a senior judge who has presided over some 500 cases that the average jury here contains its fair share of "credulous, imbeciles, woolly-minded liberals and soft-hearted women".

And if that is not bad enough, declares M. Xavier Versini, those who are qualified to undertake this civic duty frequently find it impossible to make themselves understood to fellow citizens "who are hard put to string 10 words together".

In a new book looking back on his 10 years as chief magistrate of the Paris Assizes Court, M. Versini blames

a law passed in 1978 which, in his acid phrase, permitted juries to be composed of "selections in the Métro". M. Versini clearly hankers for the old days when only a carefully defined better class of person was eligible and potential jurors did not arrive looking as if they had been caught in an official round-up (often appearing, he notes with icy disapproval, in shirt-sleeves, "as if they were going to play pétanque").

The theme of M. Versini's argument is that having presided over a great many big trials — including those of alleged terrorists, kidnappers and errant financiers — he is convinced the *sélections du Métro* can and do hamper the

true course of justice. In a system where seven of the standard nine-person jury, voting secretly, are sufficient for a majority verdict, a couple of dolts may exercise "a determining role" in cases involving sentences of life imprisonment.

With commendable frankness, M. Versini, who is remembered as an austere and dominating figure on the bench, admits that magistrates are sometimes obliged to "row" juries towards a proper finding for fear of them lurching into something worse. "A word let slip, or not said, can change everything," he observes, especially with jurors who are practically begging to be swung.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Britain and Iran open new talks

Officials from the Foreign Office and the Iranian Foreign Ministry have held talks in London on the future of the former Iranian Embassy which was heavily damaged during a raid by the SAS in 1980 (Andrew McEwen writes). Although no political matters were discussed, the meeting was seen as a hopeful development.

The Foreign Office has made it clear that it is willing to start contact which could lead to a more formal dialogue. The two countries seem likely to resume the complicated diplomatic dance which they carried out throughout 1988. It came close to achieving a resumption of normal diplomatic relations, but was interrupted in March when Tehran broke relations. The move followed the late Ayatollah Khomeini's *fatwa* condemning the author Salman Rushdie to death over his novel *The Satanic Verses*.

Aquino crisis move

Manila — The House of Representatives of the Philippines Congress yesterday approved a Bill granting President Aquino limited emergency powers for 90 days to enable the Government to deal with the crisis following the failed coup (Vivian Tenorio writes). The Senate is expected to vote on a separate version of the Bill later this week. The two houses will have to reconcile the two Bills in a bicameral committee before presenting it to Mrs. Aquino for signing. Mrs. Aquino declared a state of national emergency last week.

Aylwin ahead in poll

Santiago — In a final opinion poll before today's elections in Chile, Señor Patricio Aylwin, the opposition's candidate, has been given 57 per cent of the vote compared with 25 per cent for Señor Hernán Buchi, the former Finance Minister, and 16 per cent for Señor Francisco Errazuriz, the third candidate (Lake Sagaris writes). But even if he wins the presidency, Señor Aylwin's authority will be limited unless he also gains the support of both houses of Parliament. More than 7.5 million Chileans are expected to vote in the elections, the first in almost 20 years.

US opposed award

Washington — The US State Department discreetly sought to stop an important American human rights award from being presented to Mr. Fang Lizi, the Chinese dissident, this autumn, arguing that the award would upset the Chinese authorities and diminish the chances of securing his freedom (Martin Fletcher writes). The revelation yesterday came just days after the Administration's remarkable weekend overtures to Peking and will fuel the charge that the White House is giving in to the regime which ordered the suppression in June of the pro-democracy movement.

Court expels accused

Paris — Mr. Habib Maamar was expelled from a heavily guarded special court for insulting the judge yesterday, an hour after his trial began for the 1985 bombing of the Marks & Spencer store in Paris, in which one person died and 30 were wounded, and the earlier bombing of an Israeli-owned bank (Philip Jacobson writes). Mr. Maamar, a Tunisian, aged 37, shouted loud protests about what he called "44 months of slow death" in solitary confinement. He was warned to conduct himself more calmly or be removed. "OK, expel me," he replied.

Call to legalize drugs

New York — A Federal judge in New York yesterday enraged the Bush Administration by publicly calling for the legalization of drugs as the only solution to the epidemic of crime that they have inflicted on the United States (Charles Bremner writes). Mr. Robert Sweet, a Manhattan court judge and a former federal prosecutor and deputy mayor of the city, said it was futile to attempt to ban "recreational" narcotics. Cocaine, heroin and marijuana could be taxed and distributed by state agencies, he said, and be sold by pharmaceutical companies.



The Sphinx, which is shedding huge lumps of stone used in repairing its fragile left hip between 1982 and 1987.

Bad repairs prompt warning over crumbling Sphinx

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

As the 4,600-year-old Sphinx sent shock waves through Egypt by shedding huge lumps of stone used in repairs of its fragile left hip, officials admitted yesterday that restoration work carried out between 1982 and 1987 was faulty and would have to be scrapped.

The discovery of the faulty methods used to rescue the magnificent monument from the ravages of time, pollution and a rising water table followed a warning from Dr. Zahi Hawass, director of the Pyramids area, that unless rapid steps were taken to restore it, large parts could crumble and disappear within 20 years.

The latest crisis in the condition of the ancient man-cat guarding the Pyramids at Giza started at the weekend when resident experts involved in the restoration programme noticed the stone mass

lining the damaged hip beginning to fall away over a 21 ft stretch.

Dr. Sayed Tewfik, chairman of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization, contradicted the faith expressed previously in the controversial restoration work and announced that stones and mortar used in recent repairs would have to be replaced by others, much smaller in size and similar to those used during repairs undertaken in Roman times.

Dr. Tewfik is aware of the political sensitivity of the subject. He was appointed only last year. His predecessor, Dr. Ahmad Kadyr, was sacked after being made a scapegoat for the disaster in February, 1988, when a 660 lb block dropped mysteriously from the Sphinx's shoulder.

Dr. Tewfik told the Cairo daily *Al-Ahram*, which carried a photograph of the piece which had fallen on Saturday, that the use of too-heavy stones in the repairs had altered the

balance of the monument and that the use of cement had been a mistake.

"A group of Egyptian and international archaeologists have now agreed that the stones used in the repair should be removed and replaced with others in a way which will not use cement at all", he stated.

Basically, you are dealing with a lousy rock that has been a lousy rock for ever

"We have already found the right stones on the Pyramid site and are now looking for a suitable mixture to hold them in place." The smaller stones are similar to those used in a successful repair programme carried out at the turn of the century. That was modelled on work done 14

centuries earlier when Roman technicians performed emergency restorations at a time when the Sphinx was already drawing tourists from the Mediterranean area.

"The old fashioned methods make much better sense than anything modern," one Egyptian expert said.

Despite a \$100,000 (£62,500) programme funded by Unesco, the United Nations Education and Scientific Agency (which will be shipping in new diagnostic equipment next month) the riddle of how to harness modern technology to save the Sphinx has eluded a succession of top archaeologists.

One of the most damaging attempts to restore the limestone lion with a Pharaoh's face occurred two decades ago when scientists injected a chemical into its chest to try to harden the rock.

The treatment rapidly flaked off, taking with it some of the invaluable

mother rock it was supposed to preserve. Outlining the problems, Mr. Omar Arin, an archaeological chemist, said: "It is not just an old building that you are going to refurbish and renovate. Basically you are dealing with a lousy rock that has been a lousy rock for ever."

The first known effort to save the Sphinx occurred 3,400 years ago. As recorded in stone, the prince who was to become Pharaoh Tutankhamun IV did as he was ordered in a dream and had the cover of sand removed from the Sphinx.

As promised, the Sphinx repaid the good deed by arranging for him to usurp the throne of Egypt.

In modern times, repeated efforts by Egyptian and foreign experts to halt the decay have failed, prompting suggestions for more drastic remedies such as recovering the whole statue in sand or encasing it in glass. But no agreement has been reached.

Group of 24 gives pledge on aid for reforming nations

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

Amid sombre warnings of chaos and bloodshed in Poland and Hungary if living conditions are not further improved, foreign ministers from their 24 donor nations agreed yesterday to step up their help, and promised similar aid for four other reforming Eastern European countries.

"It was agreed by everybody that the same sort of help would be forthcoming by the Group of 24 to other countries as they move to democracy — the GDR, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia," Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said afterwards.

"The same principles will apply, with the same kind of graded help as they move down the path of economic reform." The agreement, on the eve of the Nato foreign ministers' meeting, is a vital signal of encouragement to the reforms sweeping Eastern Europe.

He also announced that the International Monetary Fund was on the point of agreement with Poland and Hungary, a pre-condition set by the group for continuing aid.

He said the stabilization fund for Poland had also just reached its target of \$1 billion (£625 million) to which Britain had contributed \$100

million. Altogether British aid to Poland next year would total £244 million, with £20 million also promised to Hungary.

The foreign ministers held their first meeting since the 24 agreed at the Paris summit to provide emergency aid co-ordinated by the European Commission. But they heard grim reports from the Hungarian and Polish foreign ministers, who warned of the huge social costs of economic restructuring and the urgency of further swift help.

Mr Gyula Horn, the Hungarian Foreign Minister, said living standards were "at best stagnant, if not declining". Unemployment and inflation were rising, and the country was facing a big challenge.

"We are resolved to carry out our programme, even if its implementation generates social conflict at the start," he said.

But if the Government was forced to introduce further restrictive measures, "the outcome may be a general wave of social unrest and resistance, even an activation of mass support for the conservative and retrograde forces, which would prevent both economic recovery and the process of democratization". He pleaded

with the Western donors not to put Hungary under "impossibly heavy pressure", and said he was confident they would not treat his country's problems like a simple financial issue. He hoped they would prefer a long-term strategy in the mutual play of economy and politics.

Hungary would accept the challenge of adopting unpopular but necessary measures and make "drastic cuts" in the subsidies of large enterprises. It would reform property laws, undertake broad privatization, reappraise the role of the state, liberalize foreign trade, establish missing market institutions and strengthen local government.

It had already resorted to devaluation and raised interest rates, and was planning a radical reduction of the budget deficit in 1990 and measures to boost savings.

An equally grim picture was painted by Mr Krzysztof Skubiszewski, his Polish counterpart, who said austerity conditions would be introduced. He spoke of the huge inflation rate, and said the burden of debt was paralysing his country. He hoped the 24 would back his attempt to reschedule debts with the Club of Paris.

Moscow's recipe for reform



Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet Prime Minister, yesterday giving his prescription for economic reform, which includes retaining central planning and no private property.

Berlin's exodus brings services near to collapse

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

Herr Erhard Krack, East Berlin's Mayor, warned yesterday that the city was close to a collapse of infrastructure and morale and offered to undergo a vote of confidence as the stream of emigrants to the West continued.

Herr Krack said that 18,000 East Berliners had left this year, and that there was no sign of the exodus declining even in the climate of reform.

At a meeting of the Magistrat — the council which runs the city — Herr Krack admitted shortages of essential workers, despite attempts to fill the gaps in hospitals and other industries from the security forces and by drawing workers from other areas.

Last night the underground service came to a halt, causing the rush-hour chaos.

The hospital in the Buch suburb of the city which treated Herr Erich Honecker, the former leader, in the summer is now so short of staff that it has appealed to the city authorities to bring in doctors and nurses from West Berlin. The child surgery unit, the most advanced in East Germany, has lost four doctors and 15 nursing and technical staff in the past two months.

The Magistrat also heard that the attacks on demonstrators in early October were ordered by Herr Erich Mielke, the then Minister for State Security, now under arrest on corruption charges.

The city commission inquiring into the attacks said that the security forces were ordered to use violence against demonstrators by Herr Mielke as he toured police and security bases telling staff: "Beat down the counter-revolutionaries — do not be afraid to use violence".

This order, the Magistrat heard, was based on an instruction by Herr Honecker. His freedom of the city was withdrawn by the Magistrat.

In an attempt to restore its credibility, the Office of National Security, the renamed Ministry for State Security, has been emphasizing its role

in fighting the revival of neo-Nazism in the country.

Herr Stephan Roehl, its spokesman, said yesterday that the office was concerned about the sudden rise in neo-Nazi activities "particularly in the atmosphere of uncertainty and with the border to the West open" he said.

The number of cases of racist and anti-semitic attack in the country has more than tripled in the last year, from 44 prosecutions in 1988 to 144 this year.

Herr Roehl said the organization had arrested a cell of eight neo-Nazis in East Berlin. It is thought at least 10 other such cells are operating in East Germany.

In Leipzig, Herr Kurt Masur, the conductor of the

Bach (Reiner) — A West German offer of free emergency medical treatment for East German visitors does not mean it should supply false teeth and spectacles to all, Herr Norbert Blum, the Labour Minister, said yesterday. But those who settled in the West were entitled to the same benefits as West Germans.

Leipzig Gewandhaus-Orchestra and a leader of the city's opposition groups, warned that "voices of hatred" were taking over the Monday demonstrations.

In an interview with the West German newspaper, *Die Welt*, he said: "The readiness for aggression, the overheated passions and hatred will lead us into a situation similar to civil war unless we act very quickly," Herr Masur said.

● BÖNNEN West Berlin is to provide assistance to East Berlin as a result of the meeting on Tuesday evening between Herr Modrow and Herr Walter Momper, the Mayor of the Western section of the city (see Murray article).

West Berlin is giving DM2 million (£716,000) worth of medical help, and there are to be regular contacts between the authorities on both sides about planning and ways of solving mutual problems.

Soviet officers prevented bloodbath, says Brandt

From Ian Murray, Bonn

Officers of the Soviet Army prevented "a bloodbath in Leipzig" on October 9, according to Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor.

In an interview published today by *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, he says the date should go down as a special one in German-Soviet friendship.

Herr Brandt has excellent relations with the Kremlin. He was in Moscow just before Herr Erich Honecker was deposed as East German leader and was told this was to happen before any other West

German politician. In the interview he clearly speaks with inside knowledge of what happened in Leipzig that evening when the People's Army (NVA) suddenly drew back before the huge, peaceful demonstration there.

Earlier Leipzig demonstrations had been violently broken up by the authorities, but the trouble-free march on October 9 marked a turning point which led inexorably to the fall of Herr Honecker the following week.

Herr Brandt said that the top echelons of the People's Army always included several dozen Soviet officers. "No important NVA

operation can pass by without them. And if a clever Soviet general said: 'You can do what you want, but our troops and our tanks stay in their barracks', then this has an effect."

"The importance of the peaceful Leipzig demonstration in toppling the old regime was recognized by Herr Egon Krenz, Herr Honecker's successor. Seeking to gain popularity, he personally claimed credit for stopping a bloodbath in Leipzig, maintaining he recognized that a political problem had to be resolved by political means."

But Herr Brandt makes it clear that the decisive factor was the Soviet non-intervention, with the

NVA realizing that there would be no back up at all if it did open fire.

● Discretion call: President von Weizsäcker of West Germany yesterday called on all Germans to use discretion in facing the fast-moving developments in East Germany. "We are one nation," he said in a first interview for East German television. But he gave a warning that the process of growing together would take time.

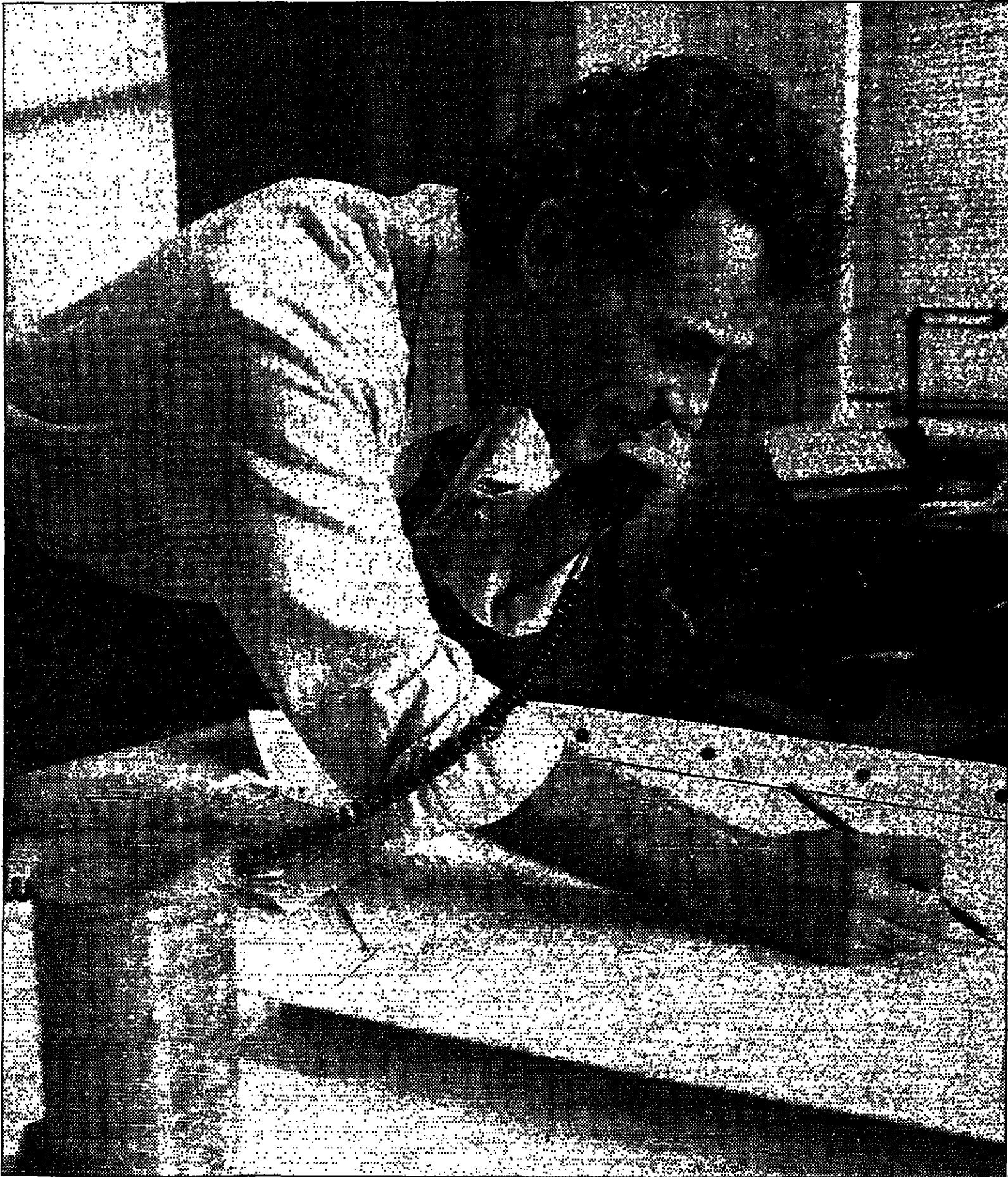
West Germany, he said, must not involve itself in the executive processes of East Germany, although it must be ready to help and advise whenever necessary. "What belongs together, will grow together,"

but we must be vigilant together lest the attempt is made to run riot together."

The "two states, one nation" had to see what they could achieve together. There must be no question of external determination being imposed in place of self-determination. Germans had also to stay together within Europe.

Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, in his first talks on how to implement the 10-point plan he hopes will lead to reunification, has decided not to see Herr Gregor Gysi, the new East German communist leader, during his two-day visit to Dresden next week.

HE'S NOT IN TEXAS.



BUT HE'S OILING THE WHEELS IN HOUSTON.

"Doug? It's Brian. I just got the results of the drilling programme."

"Impressed?"

"Amazed!"

"So were we. When are you back?"

"Tomorrow. First flight out. Hey, is the old man happy?"

"What do you think?"

"He must have begun to have his doubts about me."

"Who wouldn't after six dry holes?"

"I knew it was there. But I want to hear it from you. It's pumping how many barrels a day?"

The rest of this conversation is strictly confidential.

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THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Zhivkov facing trial after party expulsion

From Ernest Beck, Sofia

The Bulgarian Communist Party yesterday moved to break completely with its corrupt past by expelling Mr Todor Zhivkov, its disgraced former leader, and his son Vladimir, clearing the way for them to be put on trial for embezzlement and stealing state funds, among other crimes.

The decision came at the end of a special three-day session of the Central Committee called to purge the party of the last vestiges of the Zhivkov era and to set the pace for further political and democratic reforms under Mr Petar Mladenov, the new General Secretary.

Also expelled from the party was Mr Milko Balev, the former personal secretary of Mr Zhivkov, one of the most hated political figures.

Mr Andrei Lukanov, a popular Politburo member and the number two figure in the Communist Party, said the Central Committee had voted unanimously to expel Mr Zhivkov for "gross violations of the law and mistakes which have brought the country to a serious crisis".

In a further move to accelerate reforms and to meet the growing demands of opposition groups for a fast introduction of a multi-party system, the committee also

renounced the party's right to rule.

It asks the Parliament, which meets today, to strike from the Constitution the articles which guarantee the party's monopoly of power.

The committee had earlier this week voiced its support for the move but there was uncertainty when it might occur.

Parliament will also consider a new election law which will set out the legal framework for what Mr Lukanov called "free and democratic elections" before the end of June.

Mr Zhivkov was ousted from the Central Committee last week after receiving yesterday's final snub after 35 years of one-man rule.

The Central Committee decisions are a clear victory for Mr Mladenov who has moved quickly to consolidate his power after an uncertain start following the removal of Mr Zhivkov last month.

After the meeting ended Mr Mladenov spoke to an organized rally of more than 60,000 people assembled at the central September the Ninth Square in Sofia to show its support for the restructuring of the Communist Party and the introduction of a pluralistic political system.

"Our glorious party does not need this constitutional article any more," Mr Mladenov said. "Our party can win without it."



Thousands of Bulgarians holding a candle-light demonstration in Sofia to urge the introduction of a pluralistic system. Elections have been promised by May.

dozen times. The success of the plenum in purging the party and introducing a democratization plan appears to have scuttled attempts by the opposition to force the Government to resign.

It has also thwarted efforts to make the party give up immediately its hold on society through the media and its workplace cells.

Mr Lukanov, speaking to journalists, appeared to dampen speculation that there would be a free choice in the promised election. He said the party was serious about pluralism and ready for a dialogue with any group.

"There are no limits on this dialogue except for the socialist choice for Bulgaria," he said.

Mr Mladenov added that Mr Zhivkov, aged 78, who is under house arrest, had eroded spiritual and intellectual freedoms and had debased the moral values of Bulgarian society.

Mr Mladenov lost no time after taking control of the country in purging members of Mr Zhivkov's family, including his playboy son, Vladimir, his son-in-law, Mr Khristo Malev, who was a member of the central committee, and Mr Petko Danchev, a Deputy Prime Minister who is rumoured to be Mr Zhivkov's illegitimate son.

It was left yesterday to a veteran member of the Communist Party to discredit Mr Zhivkov's Second World War record.

Bulgarians have always believed, and history books record, that Mr Zhivkov was a leader of the ferocious Chavdar Brigade which carried out many daring and successful attacks against the

occupying Germans after 1942. Many of Bulgaria's most powerful political figures were members of the brigade, notably Mr Dobri Dzhurov, now the Defence Minister, who was its founder and commander-in-chief.

But Miss Tsola Dragochieva, aged 91, a senior party member who also took an active part in the



Mr Zhivkov: Media carry daily reports of alleged offences.

Rumour factories on overtime to vilify purged leader

From Peter Law, Sofia

The Bulgarian economy may be near to a seizure, but the rumour factories are working overtime to vilify Mr Todor Zhivkov, the country's deposed former leader, and his 35-year rule.

The media, which are now more free but still subject to communist manipulation, have daily reports of outrages said to have been committed by Mr Zhivkov, his family and their cohorts.

The most recent and inflammatory accusation was made on state television by the relatives of 29 people killed in an aircraft crash outside Sofia last summer.

They claimed that the crash of the domestic Balkan Airways flight was caused by the impatience of the deposed dictator to be airborne in his own private jet, which was to take him to one of his 30 residences, staffed with Western luxuries and works of art.

The doomed plane, they said, was ordered on to a smaller runway, and the pilot was denied time to check equipment.

According to this version, having

failed to pick up enough speed on the short runway, the plane crashed seconds after take-off.

Within minutes the man Bulgarians used to call *Tatko* (Daddy), was flying over the burning wreckage, waving aside suggestions by officials that, as the country's leader, he should return to the scene to deal personally with the aftermath of the tragedy.

Other "crimes" being laid at Mr Zhivkov's door include allegations that, while Bulgarian industry was collapsing around him, he set up several "shadow economies". These are said to have included the manufacture of homeopathic medicines, which brought in millions of pounds of hard foreign currency for his personal use.

The Government has promised an inquiry into the years of Zhivkov rule, which is to be carried out by Mr Andrei Lukanov, the party's second most senior official.

In a statement after Monday's meeting of the Communist Party hierarchy, Mr Petar Mladenov, the country's new leader, denounced his former boss as a "feudal leader" who had usurped power with the

help of a small group of cronies. They had "received key positions and benefits which enabled them, using his name and the name of the party and the state, to manipulate basic public institutions".

Mr Mladenov added that Mr Zhivkov, aged 78, who is under house arrest, had eroded spiritual and intellectual freedoms and had debased the moral values of Bulgarian society.

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Bulgarians have always believed, and history books record, that Mr Zhivkov was a leader of the ferocious Chavdar Brigade which carried out many daring and successful attacks against the

resistance movement, yesterday sent a letter to the Central Committee plenum claiming that Mr Zhivkov had played at most a minor role in the resistance movement, and had falsified the dates and historical details in the Communist Party's record "for the purpose of securing himself the biography of a hero of the anti-Fascist struggle".

For lurid details of the alleged moral collapse of the old leadership, the party has swung the spotlight on to Mr Vladimir Zhivkov. The former Deputy Minister of Culture, aged 37, well known here for his heavy drinking, violent temper and love of roulette, has in the past few weeks had his name linked almost daily with tales of drug-taking and the hosting of lavish house parties that degenerated into sexual orgies which were video-recorded for distribution to party members.

Bulgarians would also like to know where the £1.5 million he is said to have lost at the gaming tables came from. In addition, he is also being asked to help explain the mysterious circumstances sur-

rounding the death last year of Tatyana Tityanova, a Bulgarian television announcer whom, it is alleged, he had seen earlier the same evening.

A further accusation which he has denied publicly is that while he was president of the Lyudmilla Foundation he allowed millions to be squandered. The foundation was set up on the death of Mr Todor Zhivkov's daughter, Lyudmilla, to educate gifted Bulgarian children in the West.

Many Bulgarians believe the leaks of incriminating official letters are coming rather too easily from senior party members. Instead of unconfirmed allegations against their former ruler, they would prefer to see members of the leading dissident groups taking part in the corruption inquiry headed by Mr Lukanov.

This would help lift suspicion that the wholesale defamation of the Zhivkov clan rather too conveniently provides the present Communist leadership with a mute scapegoat, and deflects questions about the role of members of the new regime in the crimes of the old.

Reduced military threat 'ignored'

From Susan Elliott, Washington

The Bush Administration is ignoring the reduced threat from the Warsaw Pact in its plans for next year's military expenditure, Senator Sam Nunn, the influential chairman of the Senate armed services committee claimed yesterday.

The move reinforced calls by former defence officials to reduce the annual \$300 billion (\$186.5 billion) annual US defence budget by half over the next 10 years. Mr Richard Cheney, the Defence Secretary, has suggested cutting the budget by up to \$184 billion by 1996.

Mr Nunn, a Georgia Democrat, claimed, however, that Mr Cheney had ignored a report by his own intelligence experts which showed that the Soviet Army under President Gorbachev was less of a threat.

"I don't know what we need intelligence assessments for... and you say you are not going to plug it in," Mr Nunn said, referring to the official finding.

The report said Europe would now be given a warning of a Soviet mobilization of forces far further in advance than it would have been under previous Kremlin leaders.

"When you don't have accurate intelligence and planning factored into the budget, the process itself becomes misleading, and what flows from it loses credibility," Mr Nunn said after the hearing.

He accused the Pentagon of being frightened of taking into account the increased warning time because its officials feared that Congress would then seek even larger reductions in defence spending.

BRUSSELS: Nato Foreign Ministers are likely to give a strong endorsement at their meeting today to the call in Berlin on Tuesday by Mr Baker for a Nato agency to be set up to verify arms-control agreements (Michael Binyon writes).

Herr Manfred Wörner, the Nato Secretary-General, said he had already consulted members, and had spoken out on a need for "some kind of verification mechanism".

Herr Wörner also endorsed Mr Baker's call for a new Atlanticism and a united Europe.

Battle for Czech presidency

Communists put Civil Forum on spot

From John Holland, Prague

The Czechoslovak pro-democracy group Civil Forum yesterday found itself backed into a corner after insisting that its leader, Mr Vaclav Havel, be elected as president by Parliament before the constitutionally-set deadline of December 24, rather than by the communist-proposed method of a national referendum to be held early next year.

Civil Forum's uncompromising stand could eventually spell a rare defeat at the hands of the communists, who have begun portraying themselves in the past few weeks as paragons of democratic virtue.

The communist-controlled Parliament appeared to be leaning in favour of the referendum, buying the communists time to field a candidate who could offer a serious challenge to Mr Havel.

But participants said the issue cannot be raised for a parliamentary vote until the national Government and the Czech and Slovak regional governments convene. The new Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Jan Carnogursky, only three weeks ago a dissident lawyer sitting in police detention in Bratislava, said new laws were being drafted which would strengthen rights of

assembly, free speech and religion.

Mr Carnogursky, who is one of three ministers who oversee the Interior Ministry and thus police functions, said that changes in the penal code would reduce the time a person could be held in protective custody without charges being filed.

Despite the progress reported by the new Government on instituting substantive reforms, most public attention for the past few days has been focused on the fight over the presidency, a highly symbolic but significant post.



A Prague demonstrator supporting Mr Vaclav Havel, Civil Forum's candidate to be Czechoslovakia's next president.

The grinning face of Mr Havel on leaflets and posters, dressed either in casual clothes or a suit and tie to appeal to both students and the professional classes, continued to spread to all corners of Prague.

Mr Anton Blazek, president of the House of Nations, which represents one half of the bicameral Federal Assembly which is debating the issue, said he saw "no obstacles" to holding a referendum. A communist Politburo member, Mr Vasil Mohorita, who is in favour of a direct election for president, said

"They would look bad if they don't elect Havel, and so buying time is their best prospect of finding an opponent who can rally his kind of support," said one source. He conceded that Civil Forum "has got everything it has demanded so far" and may back down if it begins to look as if the pro-democracy movement, ironically, were trying to block the democratic process.

A parliamentary deputy, speaking for the old line, said the president "should be risen from the working class, because other classes, all the professionals, have only lived off the sweat of the working class". The snipe at Mr Havel, the son of a wealthy restaurateur, was unmistakable.

Later a hardline communist deputy spoke out in favour of police being allowed to maintain their broad powers, but he was shouted down. Then several deputies got up to sing the national anthem, soon joined by the rest who looked more confused than patriotic.

Mr Petr Miller, the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, said he presented two resolutions to the Government, including the cancellation of party officials' pensions.

He said the vote on the referendum was not on the agenda until at least tomorrow because the three governments had to discuss and agree on the issue first.

Several ministers addressed the assembly to paint a gloomy economic portrait and an unsettling political account.

Mr Miller, who last week was still a factory foreman, said the Government was effectively "carrying out the president's obligations" while the debate is resolved over succession.

The minister also said on the floor that in the next year more than 25 per cent of uranium mine workers would be laid off as part of austerity measures.

Mr Václav Klaus, the new Minister of Finance, said Czechoslovakia's foreign debt stood at around \$7 billion (£4.3 billion), about twice the previous official estimate.

such a referendum could be held between 45 and 60 days from now, adding that the assembly's constitutional duty to elect a president within two weeks is not enough time.

Mr Blazek, speaking on the assembly floor, read a letter from a student who supported the referendum as "the most democratic way to choose the president". Informed opposition sources admit that what the communists are doing makes tactical sense.

"They would look bad if they don't elect Havel, and so buying time is their best prospect of finding an opponent who can rally his kind of support," said one source. He conceded that Civil Forum "has got everything it has demanded so far" and may back down if it begins to look as if the pro-democracy movement, ironically, were trying to block the democratic process.

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Poles look to the future on anniversary of martial law

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Polish factory sirens wailed, church bells tolled, cars hooped, politicians confessed and people prayed yesterday in the first public commemoration of martial law since General Jaruzelski cracked down on Solidarity in the bleak winter of 1981.

For eight years, December 13 has been a day of illegal street demonstrations and futile protests. Now with Solidarity in government, with a decisive say in television programming, with its own legal, large circulation newspapers, there is a rush of candour.

Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Solidarity Prime Minister, reprinted fragments from his martial law prison memoirs on the front page of the government daily, the cinema are starting to show the last of the films banned under martial law - *The Interrogation* by Ryszard Bugajski - and there are tributes and flowers everywhere to those killed in demonstrations against General Jaruzelski.

And the general, now the President, has given an interview to *Gazeta Wyborcza*, the Solidarity daily. "Solidarity underestimated the strength of the authorities before Decem-

ber 13, 1981, and the authorities did not appreciate the strength of Solidarity after December 1981," the President told the newspaper.

Miss Malgorzata Niezabitowska, the Government's spokeswoman, said: "For the first time we can celebrate this anniversary in public and

aloud." The Government, she emphasized, still had much support, despite the highly unpopular economic measures about to be submitted to Parliament. The Government is discussing the legislation that makes up the core of the package for the International Monetary Fund.

Parliament will begin a three-day session to pass the laws that lay the way for privatization of some state industry and tough monetary controls. Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, has urged the Government to take up special powers to rush the measures through Parliament, but Miss Niezabitowska yesterday ruled out that option.

In Poland, at least martial law appears to have been excluded from future political scenarios. Even the Communist Party daily talked yesterday of the 1981 crackdown as a "lesser evil" the greater evil being Soviet invasion - and the President's spokesman said it was a tragic decision. The most scarred by the 1981 events was probably the Army which has seen a steady decline in its social standing and which is now suffering from a serious shortage of field and staff officers.

Miss Niezabitowska said martial law was a lesson for both sides. "For the Communists, it showed that they could not rule without or even against society. For the opposition, it showed that unrelenting political struggle must also be tempered by political re-

sistance and opposition attacks. But there is a further element which also recalls the Britain of the 1970s: the budget which he will defend in Parliament on Monday has been written to an International Monetary Fund specification. It is expected to reduce the budget deficit by more than two-thirds.

Mr Nemeth has predicted that austerity measures will double Hungary's small unemployment problem (at present only 25,000) while also forcing up rents and interest rates. But if the Parliament refuses to adopt it Hungary will fail to qualify for an IMF package.

Without such a package Hungary will be unable to obtain further loans. Some nations, including Britain, feel that the West should not

encourage Hungary to increase its already huge foreign debt of \$20 billion (\$12.5 billion), the highest per capita in the Soviet bloc. With inflation running at 17 per cent officially, but probably higher, Hungary needs to spend less, it is argued.

The West has done far less for Hungary than Poland, mainly because of uncertainty over its willingness to adopt sound economic policies. Britain has so far committed only £25 million to a small "know-how" fund, while giving Poland twice as much for a similar project and contributing a further £100 million to an international fund to stabilize the Polish currency. Its generosity was made possible by Warsaw's willingness to accept IMF advice.

Photograph, page 10

Official visit to UK curtailed

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

One of the smaller luxuries of Eastern European leaders until recently was the ability to go abroad for a few days without worrying unduly.

The unexpectedly rushed official visit which Mr Miklos Nemeth, the Hungarian Prime Minister, paid to Britain yesterday showed how little remained of the old order.

In a single working day he packed in most of the appointments which had been scheduled to last three days, including talks with the Prime Minister and Mr John Major, the Chancellor, and a press conference.

The problems which forced him to cut short the visit would have been familiar to any Western leader - a looming general election in an economic crisis, a debate in Parliament on an austerity budget,

and opposition attacks. But there is a further element which also recalls the Britain of the 1970s: the budget which he will defend in Parliament on Monday has been written to an International Monetary Fund specification.

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Photograph, page 10

Economist seen as Prague's most trusted leader

From Anatol Lieven, Prague

The economic future of Czechoslovakia depends to a considerable extent on a man whose disordered hair and bushy beard suggest the more benevolent kind of mad professor.

Dr Václav Komarek, the new First Deputy Prime Minister, has won public respect in the past two years as head of the Institute for Economic Forecasting. His institute's detailed and honest public reports exploded the regime's faked statistics and its claims that the economy was expanding.

Opinion polls suggest that Dr Komarek is the most trusted public figure in the country, ahead of Mr Alexander Dubcek, who is seen as a man of the past, and Mr Václav Havel, who is not well known outside Prague and the educated classes, and who has no administrative experience. Some analysts think that Dr Komarek might yet emerge as a

compromise candidate for President, if the impasse over the post continues.

Dr Komarek's continued public prestige will depend, however, on the success of the new economic strategy developed at his institute. Two other members of the institute, Dr Václav Klaus, the Finance Minister, and Dr Vladimir Dlouhy, the Planning Minister, are also in the new Cabinet.

Dr Komarek said that there was no need for the Government to take crisis measures of the kind seen in Poland. "Our economy is relatively stable. The problems will come in the longer term," he said, referring to the threat of inflation and the danger that restructuring away from heavy industry will lead to unemployment.

In the first quarter of next year, he expects the Government to tackle two immediate tasks: decentralization and the ending of state monopolies, and the liberalization of foreign trade. Moves will also be taken to create a capital market and to liberalize prices and wages. Dr Komarek admitted that

the Polish experience with hyperinflation showed that such liberalization would have to proceed cautiously. But he said that foreign companies could set up fully independent operations in Czechoslovakia "perhaps tomorrow".

Mr Tomas Bata, of the multinational shoe company which his family founded in Czechoslovakia between the wars, and whose Czechoslovak operation was expropriated by the Communists, is to visit the country in four days' time. Bata representatives have said that big investments are possible. By way of encouragement, Civil Forum wants to restore the old name of the family's home town, Zlín, to mark the visit. For 30 years it has been called Gottwaldov in honour of the first Czechoslovak Communist ruler.

Dr Komarek said that apart from consumer goods such as shoes, the main fields for foreign investment were likely to be light engineering and precision instruments. Czechoslovakia has a tradition in these fields but they have been neglected in favour of heavy industry.

However, in Dr Komarek's view the main initial field for foreign investment is tourism. Czechoslovakia earns only \$150 million per year (about £100 million) compared with the \$9 billion of Austria.

Gesturing to his beautiful but faded 19th century office, he said many old and decayed buildings could be restored and converted into hotels.

Dr Komarek has always been a member of the Communist Party but insists that this was simply so he could do his work. "For many years I have been an independent scientist, and I mean to die as a non-party man."

Analysts say that apart from Dr Komarek's intellectual achievements and personal charm, he possesses considerable political toughness and acumen. His character was perhaps shaped by his childhood as a founding, pursued by the Nazis on suspicion of "racial impurity".

December 13 1989

PARLIAMENT

Home buyers feel betrayed, Gould tells House

The widespread anger and resentment felt by home buyers stemmed from a feeling of betrayal, Mr Bryan Gould, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, said when he opened an Opposition debate on mortgage costs and housing.

Thousands of people, he said, had been enticed on to the treadmill of spiralling house prices by a Government that told them there was an economic miracle.

Mr Michael Howard, Minister for Housing and Planning, acknowledged that many home owners found the present level of interest rates very difficult.

Mr Gould, opening the debate, moved a motion condemning the Government's responsibility for the crisis and said that the rise in interest rates, which in itself was an admission of economic failure, was a sign of desperation in the pursuit of economic policy. Its most damaging effect was its impact on mortgage rates.

Average monthly repayments since May, 1988, had risen from £259 to £347. In London, the rises had been £162 a month.

Such increases were shattering to even the most careful household budgets. They had plunged thousands of families into a desperate plight.

A tragic minority faced the humiliation and despair of losing their homes. They were given a glim promise by the Government that home-ownership was risk-free. But then the Government threw it all into reverse when it was caught up with it. Millions were

HOUSING

The building societies represented 12,730 properties during the 12 months ended on June 30, this year, Mr Christopher Chope, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said in a written reply. That was 6.166 per cent of the mortgages outstanding at June 30.

In the previous 12 months, 21,000 properties, representing 6.288 per cent of outstanding mortgages, had been repossessed.

now suffering mortgage misery.

It was not just mortgage payers who were suffering. Tenants' housing costs were rising inexorably and private sector rents were also rising sharply.

Wherever people turned, whether they were owners or tenants in the public or private sector, they found the housing market moving inexorably against them, sometimes because of deliberate government policy, sometimes because the market was distorted by excessively high interest rates imposed by the Government.

But affordability of housing was not just a matter of price. It was also a matter of supply and here the record of the Government was appalling.

Mr Howard said that Mr Gould had been long on description of problems but short on solutions.

Since 1979, the proportion of owner-occupied households in England had increased from 57 per cent to 68 per cent. The number of first-time buyers in 1988 was double that in 1979. In the past 10 years, six million

people had bought their own home, more than a million of them under the right to buy which was so opposed by Labour.

"Many home owners find the present level of interest rates very difficult indeed. But it is a difficulty which must be seen in perspective, and it would be wrong to make any simplistic links between the level of mortgage rates and homelessness because, of course, there are many other causes of mortgage arrears apart from high interest rates."

One of the most significant was unemployment, and the reduction in unemployment by 1,500,000 since 1986 had significantly helped the overall picture in mortgage arrears.

Over the next three years, government spending on housing would add up to almost £20 billion. That sum would be largely to help the minority who were not owner occupiers.

For a minority, owner occupation was not the answer. That was why the Government was working to restore quality, diversity and choice in the rented sector which had been almost killed off by Labour's rent controls.

Over the next four years, the Government would more than double the Housing Corporation's main programme from £815 million this year to more than £1.7 billion by 1992-93. That should permit a doubling of output to about 35,000 dwellings in that year alone.

Mr John Heddle (Mid Staffordshire, C) said that houses for tomorrow were not being built. That would cause an increase in house-price inflation in two to three years.



Mrs Margaret Thatcher greeting Mr Miklos Nemeth, Prime Minister of Hungary, who was in London for talks, at the Foreign Office yesterday

Government 'tried to deceive'

Lord Young of Graffham, former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, intervened during exchanges in the Lords that included an allegation that the Government had tried to deceive Parliament on the payment of "sweeteners" to help the sale of Rover to British Aerospace.

To cries of "withdraw" from Conservative peers, Lord Hatch of Lusby (Lab) said during questions that there was a time when deceiving Parliament was a case for resignation.

"Has parliamentary and political morality sunk so far in the last 25 years that this is no longer the case?"

Lord Young said that the department, during the time that he was its head, had demonstrated a commitment to 1992 and to the European Community unshaken by any other or any other government in the EC.

Part of his responsibilities was to take into account not only

the claims of Brussels. It was also to take into account the claims of the 40,000 people who worked for Rover and their families, the 50,000 people who worked for their distributors and their families and the many tens of thousands of people who worked for Rover's suppliers.

Lord Trefgarne, Minister for Trade, said that discussions were continuing on the matter between officials of the department and the European Commission. No conclusion had yet been reached.

Lord Dean of Bevic (Lab) asked if there had been only one sweetener or had more been offered and taken up. If so, why had the House not been told about them when these matters had been raised?

Lord Trefgarne: I can assure him that we have been scrupulous in observing the proprieties and have made the

HOUSE OF LORDS

necessary disclosures through the estimates and other reporting procedures.

Lord Williams of Elvel, Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said the original two statements about the sale had been made in the Lords. Therefore the burden was on peers to make sure the statements were not in any way misleading.

On July 13 last year, Lord Young had announced that the European Commission had that morning decided on certain terms upon which it would be willing to close its state-aid procedures.

He had gone further the following day, saying: "The Commission has approved the final terms of the acquisition after certain changes in the structure and scale of the March

agreement". How could the Commission approve the final terms if the Commission did not know them? If the Commission had not known them, as had recently been revealed, then was that statement true, misleading or false?

Lord Trefgarne: We had reached agreement with the Commission when these additional items became necessary. We took the view that they were consistent with the Commission's terms.

He was certain that the Government, in the form of Lord Young at that time, had been right to see it that Rover passed into the private sector.

Lord Williams of Elvel: On what basis was it stated that the Commission had approved the final terms of the acquisition?

Lord Trefgarne: Because they concluded the application that Lord Young had at that time made.

'Aid for rambblers' pledge

The Countryside Commission, in partnership with regional sports councils and recreational authorities, is to be asked to propose new development plans to help walkers and rambblers, Mr David Tippler, Minister for the Environment and Countryside, told MPs during questions.

He also said that farmers who ploughed footpaths and did not restore them "must expect to face the penalty". Ploughing could destroy public enjoyment of the countryside and legislation stated that, after ploughing, footpaths should be re-instated within two weeks. "I am not satisfied that that is going on."

Restoration of memorial

The War Memorial at County Hall, London, would be restored, it was understood, during the proposed development of the building, Mr Christopher Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, said at questions.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) said that the great majority of Londoners found it offensive that County Hall, built by ratepayers' money, for the headquarters of the old London County Council and Greater London Council, would be turned into a totally inappropriate luxury hotel.

Mr Patten said that capital receipts from the sale of County Hall would be used to benefit Londoners. He wished that the money that had flowed through it in the past had been used for the same purpose.

Rule change for families

The Department of Social Security is to change the rules on casual and short-term work so that more families qualify for family credit, Mrs Gillian Shephard, Under Secretary of State for Social Security, said in a Commons written reply.

She said that only a few hundred families were unable to qualify for either income support or family credit because the claimant was a person working 24 hours a week or more at the time of claim, but could not be regarded as "normally engaged" in such work for family credit purposes because it was casual or short-term.

Polluters prosecuted

Since September 1, the National Rivers Authority had decided to start legal proceedings in 102 cases of water pollution, Mr Michael Howard, Minister for Housing and Planning, said in a written Commons reply. He said that the NRA had taken positive steps against polluters by issuing warning letters, by recovering costs relating to pollution incidents.

Fossil fuels

Recent estimates suggest that the developed world accounts for about 15 per cent of world carbon dioxide emissions from fossil-fuel combustion, Mr David Tippler, Minister for the Environment and Countryside, said in a written Commons reply.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Northern Ireland; Prime Minister. Debate on EC fisheries. Birmingham City Council (No 2) Bill. Motion on the supply of beer and on licensed premises. Lords (3): Greenwich Hospital Bill, second reading. Abortion (Amendment) Bill, second reading.

Question 'racially offensive'

A question that was allegedly racially offensive was drawn to the attention of the Speaker on a point of order.

Mr Bryan Gould, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, protested about a question on the Order Paper today put down by Mr Richard Holt (Langhams, C). The question, which Mr Gould said Mr Holt had since withdrawn, asked by how much the local



Mr Gould: Question "inflammatory in its effect"

rate support grant for 1989-90 would be increased if 2,000 of the residents of Langhams were black.

"It is certainly undeniable that the question is racially discriminatory in intention and I would also say that it is racially offensive and inflammatory in effect."

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said that the Table Office had accepted the question because various criteria were used in calculating the rate support grant, including the make-up of the population.

Mr Gould said that he would not appear and was grossly offensive.

The Speaker said that he would reflect further.

Ulster preparing for power sell-off

An Order to prepare the Northern Ireland electricity industry for privatization was approved by the Commons late on Tuesday.

Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who moved the Electricity Supply (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order, said that a further Order for privatization would be introduced later.

A number of challenges, mostly arising from the size and nature of the industry, were presented by the privatization.

The system was small by European standards and was not connected with another grid. Customer density was low and the distribution network cor-

respondingly large. The system was over-dependent on oil-fired generating plant. The size made the introduction of competition difficult. The Order conferred no power to privatize, which would have to await substantive legislation.

Mr Kevin McNamara, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said that the province's electricity service was being ordered to arrange its own demise.

MPs on both sides were increasingly dissatisfied with the way Northern Ireland matters were discussed in such an inadequate way.

The order was approved by 272 votes to 171 - Government majority, 101.

Big majority in free vote for war crimes motion

The following report of later speeches in the Commons debate on a motion endorsing the need for legislation to permit the prosecution of Nazi war criminals who were now British citizens or resident here appeared in later editions yesterday.

The motion was overwhelmingly approved by MPs on a free vote. It was carried by 348 votes to 123 - majority, 225.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that his instinct and judgement would lead him to vote for the motion.

The report (on the issue by Sir Thomas Hetherington, the former Director of Public Prosecutions) had said that in view of the ages of the suspects and witnesses, necessary legislation should be brought into force as quickly as possible. "I am deeply anxious about hurrying through this legislation in the hope of convicting known individuals."

As the people had been named, it might prove impossible to obtain a fair trial and the courts might not allow such prosecutions to proceed. It would be better to introduce general legislation in terms of the Geneva Convention, which made possible the prosecution of criminals from any war who took refuge in this country. He hoped that possibility had not been ruled out.

He feared that "many of the

A crowded House listened with rapt attention to Mr Gertrude Janner (Leicester West, Lab), a war crimes investigator. He said that action against war criminals had been taken by West Germany, East Germany, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Britain was the only country that had not.

People did not forget the face of someone who had tortured them for a year. One survivor told him that she forgot the faces of people she met yesterday but could not forget the face of the man who snatched her baby and threw it into a pit.

"I do not want revenge", he said; "I just want justice."

Prosecuting people who killed Jews would not create anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitism created that. That was the view of Jews whether or not they had lost relatives in the Holocaust.

"Where there is powerful evidence of personal involvement in mass murder we should as a House say let us have the option to prosecute them as we would British citizens."

Allegations against these men, admittedly carefully documented, are increasingly taken as proof of their guilt.

The motion was to take note of the report and then consider what legislation should be brought forward to permit the prosecution of those who were guilty of crimes against humanity.

Those of us who served six years through the war fought it out and we disposed of it. We are now moving into a better, more peaceful and wider Europe. This is not the moment to start passing legislation of this kind."

Mr Robert Maclean, Liberal Democrat spokesman on home affairs, said that he did not think it tolerable to amend the law in respect of named individuals.

He had detected in the report too

great a preoccupation with the possibilities of the prosecution's being successful, and insufficient attention had been paid to a fundamental principle of British criminal law: the right of the defendant to face witnesses giving evidence against him.

Mr Harry Ewing (Falkirk East, Lab) said that he had always had the strongest doubts about the introduction of retrospective legislation. The report had compromised any Director of Public Prosecutions, or any Lord Advocate in Scotland, who would have to consider submissions put before them.

Against the "hype" mounted on the issue, he did not believe that a verdict of not guilty would be accepted with resignation. "We are building up the hopes of the relatives of those people slaughtered in the Holocaust only to let them down, and I am not sure that that is the best way to honour the memory of those who were slaughtered."

Mr Ivor Stanbrook (Orpington, C) said that the proposition offended against the basic instincts of decent British people.

"It asks us to set aside the normal rules of British justice and so to change the law that three old men, whose identities have already been revealed in the popular press, may be apprehended as vile murderers without having the faintest chance of defend-

ing themselves." The motion asked MPs to perpetrate a travesty of justice.

Mr Ivan Lawrence (Barnet, C) said that the motion enabled them to decide whether the UK should continue to be a haven for monsters. It should not.

Sir John Stakes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C) said that the question was whether in order to put right many great wrongs, the laws of England should be changed. In his view that would be wrong.

"These trials would be more of a lottery than a fair trial. I believe most deeply we should not institute this long, complicated and involved procedure, involving overturning the whole basis of English law in order to bring to trial a few old men."

"Mercy", he said, "should overcome justice particularly when so many years have elapsed."

Mr Wastell (Dorset, C) said that if Parliament had wished to address itself to these matters, the time to have done so was in the late 1940s and early 1950s, not today when most of the witnesses are either senile, infirm or dead.

What hope would defendants have of a fair trial? The British Government would have to spend millions of pounds to scour the Soviet Union for witnesses and evidence favourable to a prosecution with the full support of the Soviet Government.

Tories want social work reforms

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Sweeping changes in the selection and training of social workers in the wake of the Cleveland child abuse affair are recommended today in a report from a leading Conservative think tank.

It accuses local authority social-work departments of operating in their own interests and not of those of parents and children.

Social workers have adopted an "autocratic" attitude, the report says, making increasing use of compulsory powers to remove children from their homes, and excluding others such as the police and parents from their deliberations. Yet, at the same time, "children are being abused under the noses of social workers", some of whom are more comfortable counselling and supporting clients than in a policing role.

The report from the Centre for Policy Studies recommends giving clients "a clear and enforceable framework of rights" to make social-work departments more accountable.

The provisions in the Children Act, 1989, for guardians in court cases to protect the interests of children should be strengthened by ensuring they are independent of the department involved.

Social-work training should be made as vocational as possible, and a greater emphasis should be placed on recruiting mature people who have raised a family and have the experience to introduce general legislation in terms of the Geneva Convention, which made possible the prosecution of criminals from any war who took refuge in this country. He hoped that possibility had not been ruled out.

The report also attributes the surge in child abuse cases to the breakdown of the traditional family, as disclosed in *The Times* yesterday.

It says that absentee fathers should be made to pay maintenance to the mothers of their children.

It also recommends that unmarried mothers should no longer be given priority on council house waiting lists.

Who Cares? Children at Risk and Social Services (Andreas Gledhill and others, Centre for Policy Studies, 8 Wilfred Street, London SW1E 6PL, £4.95).

National Audit Office Scrutiny to be stepped up

By Sheila Gann, Political Reporter

The National Audit Office is planning to intensify its scrutiny of public spending next year with further investigations into the Government's privatization programme, green policies, homelessness, housing and inner city strategies.

The independent financial watchdog will also reopen inquiries that have uncovered Whitehall's excessive and mismanagement, if no action is taken to correct them.

The number of "value-for-money" investigations will rise from 33 last year to 41 in the next year.

Launching the office's annual report yesterday, Mr John Bourn, Comptroller and Auditor General, urged civil servants to adopt a more businesslike attitude to their budgets, which total £300 billion.

He identified a gap between ministers' statements on government policies and what happens in practice after the statements are made. Money then trickles through the gap, he said.

"Public sector managers need to be at least as efficient as those in the private sector." Yet there were, he added, far too many examples to be found in the public sector "where managers have failed to maximize revenue or achieve a reasonable level of return on public sector investments."

"The importance of public sector activities, and in many areas the absence of a bottom line of profit or loss, combine to underline the need for such an approach."

One investigation into a compensation system for lost social security benefits resulted in a saving of about £55 million a year, he added, which was twice the annual running costs of his office.

Yet he also discovered that the Metropolitan Police sold married quarters for £16.4 million to developers who sold them on for £40 million.

Mr Bourn also criticized the control of public assets, including government buildings.

"Yet we have discovered inefficiencies in stock control; failures to maximize the use of facilities; delays in disposing of surplus land; and a backlog of maintenance of roads, buildings and equipment."

"And staff - perhaps the most important asset - are not always managed well", the auditor general added.

to between £9 million and £29 million.

● big weaknesses in the control of activities which led the Government to publish a White Paper;

● possible savings of £500 million on defence equipment maintenance;

● a backlog of £2 billion worth of essential maintenance on National Health Service property;

● poor stockpiling of £3 billion worth of stores owned by the Ministry of Defence;

● no proper inventories at leading armaments.

Rise of £2,594 for ministers and MPs

MPs and ministers are to get the same salary increase next year, a rise of £2,594. The Commons approved an order to that effect late on Tuesday night by 124 votes to 17.

Moving the Ministerial and Other Salaries Order, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, said that parliamentary salaries would increase by 6.9 per cent from January 1 and the average increase in the ministerial pay bill would be 6.5 per cent, with ministers in the Commons receiving an average increase of 6 per cent and those in the House of Lords 7.5 per cent.

The percentage increase in the Lords was higher because salaries of ministers there were lower than in the Commons.

In detail, he said, ministers and paid office holders would receive an additional £641 in official salary, plus a reduced increase in parliamentary salary of £1,953, making a total of £2,594, the same increase as for all other MPs.

The increased salaries would add £120,000 to the pay bill.

Mr Bruce Grocott, for the Opposition, said that he found

certain aspects of the Government's attitude encouraging. The increase, for instance, emphatically rejected what ministers frequently said about the pay rises for others, that they should be determined by market forces.

There was also no suggestion that pay should be related to whether people came from a low or high wage area, another commonly voiced opinion from government supporters.

He also liked the way the proposal observed the principle of collective agreement and that people's pay rates should not be determined by individual pay deals with the boss.

He hoped that that good sense would be extended to the ambulance pay dispute.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby Oak, C) said that the Government had done exactly the right thing in keeping ministerial salary increases below the rate of inflation. If everyone received increases at the rate of inflation, inflation would go up the next year as the ratchet principle came into effect.

THE TIMES PROFILE

GEOFFREY MULCAHY

High street hard man

There are really two Wonders of Woolies. The first is that the store chain has recovered from a seemingly terminal decline to show a £30 million annual profit. The second is the rise and rise of Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive of the mighty Kingfisher group, which owns Woolworth, and mastermind of this week's £461 million bid for the Dixons electrical group.

As the ascendancy of the 1980s chain store superstars wanes with the decade, Mulcahy represents the new face of the British retailing overlord. Unlike Sir Terence Conran of Storehouse, Sir Ralph Halpern of Burton, Sir Phil Harris of Harris Queensway or George Davies, once of Next, he has reached his position of eminence almost unopposed by anyone outside the trade. The only high thing about his profile is the high street.

Yet Kingfisher, formerly known as Woolworth Holdings, is now one of Britain's biggest retail groups, with 55,000 employees and profits of £200 million on annual sales of nearly £3 billion from its household-name chains—B&Q, Comet, Superdrug and Woolworth itself. The present bid is the climax of a long and bitter battle between Mulcahy and Stanley Kalms, the founder and chairman of Dixons.

For some spectators this bears the stamp of a needle rematch—a sort of retail counterpart of Sugar Ray Leonard versus Roberto Duran—since in 1986 it was Dixons which made a £1.8 billion bid for Woolworth. The two men are said to speak of each other with the mixture of disparagement and respect born of true rivalry.

If these are critical days for such a career, 1986 was his *annus mirabilis*, for it was then, as he emerged from the substantial shadow of John Beckett, Woolworth's outgoing chairman, that he also emerged from his own shell. Only weeks after he had taken the helm, he had to call on all his reserves of confidence and bargaining skill to fight off the Dixons bid. That battle also marked the end of merger mania,



coming as it did not long after the unhappy creation of Storehouse from Mothercare, British Home Stores and Habitat, and the troubled marriage of MFI and Asda.

Detectives have fared little better than the rest in trying to smoke out a character from Mulcahy's past. During the bid for Woolworth, a private eye attempted to study his life-style, as well as that of Nigel Whitaker, Kingfisher's corporate affairs director, and their respective families. The sleuth laboured in vain; virtually all he could reveal about Mulcahy's conduct was that he set off for work from his south London home very early in his Jaguar, and made "an equally late return each day".

When asked such searching questions as the name of his sailing boat, he can reply, as he does to much else, "No Comment," for that is what he christened the craft. There are signs of

an inner tension—most notably in his attitude to paper clips, which he mutilates, occasionally using his teeth. Then there is the squash, but this hardly makes him rare among young middle-aged executives.

He is married, with a teenage son and daughter, and privately concedes that he would like to see more of his family. But his quiet passion for business is so consuming that he lists it as a hobby, and he is credited with the self-awareness to say that writing about him is no fun.

But this is not true. Once you have abandoned the idea that he is going to be a fruitful public relations officer for himself, and go behind his back, a complicated picture starts to emerge, combining loyalty and generosity with shades of quite single-mindedness. He demands of himself that he is top dog in every sector he touches; this success is

pursued not through the flair, feel, intuition or whatever of the Halperns and Harrises, but through the cold elimination of areas which his diligent research tells him are unviable.

The Woolworth story is the case in point. When he and a handful of colleagues from British Sugar came into the Woolworth management team six years ago, the rest of the retail world believed that he was grasping a poisoned chalice. In the memory of one long-standing friend, "There was no way anyone could see such a loss-making dog being turned around."

One of the many problems was that here was an ailing giant, with a £1 billion turnover, which was almost a British institution. So Mulcahy's strategy—of actually dropping food and adult clothing, two of the chain's apparently staple lines—seemed reckless to the point of suicide.

With the benefit of hindsight, Mulcahy's ruthless and clinical eye was feeding his commercial brain with precisely the right messages. His programme, codenamed Operation Focus, could almost serve as a sobriquet for his whole approach to management, since focusing automatically implies an act of elimination. So out went food and adult clothing, even though they accounted for 25 per cent of Woolworth's annual sales, and in came a vigorous concentration on just six areas: children's toys and clothes; gifts and sweets; home and garden; kitchen; fashion and toiletries; and entertainment (one of Mulcahy's most far-sighted drives was the introduction of the £10 pre-recorded video tape).

This process of focus was restlessly and relentlessly applied, and it began to spill over, beyond the by now excessive floorspace of the Woolworth stores. Where there

was surplus space, it could be pressed into productive service by housing the growing Superdrug stores. The square footage of Woolworth went down, but the turnover went up.

If ever Mulcahy finds himself praised for his foresight, he does not so much field the compliment as reply that his actions were merely the result of a clear and logical decision, and that at the time there was little point in vaulting it as a bold or clever move since that would only have alarmed the shareholders.

Kingfisher's superiority in its chosen points of focus is impressive but not absolute; through B&Q, it can claim to be number one in do-it-yourself through Superdrug, number one in medicines; through acquiring Dixons, and its Currys subsidiary, Kingfisher stands to become number one in electronics. Hence the present Dixons is no mere campaign of

BIOGRAPHY

1942: Born, Sunderland. Educated at King's School, Worcester; degree in physics and chemistry at Manchester University.
1964: Joins Esso Petroleum as management trainee. Sent to Harvard Business School for two years.
1974: Joins the American engineering company Norton Abrasives as Northern Europe finance director.
1977: Joins management team of British Sugar.
1983: Joins management team of Woolworth Holdings.
1986: Chief executive of Kingfisher.
1989: Launches £461 million takeover bid for Dixons electronics group.

revenge for 1986, but a logical culmination of Mulcahy's vision as a retailing overlord.

In bringing Kingfisher to its present position of strength, Mulcahy may have been the general, but there have been two crucial adjutants in Whitaker, who was with him at British Sugar, and Archie Norman, the finance director. "The way it works," says one close observer of the retailing business, "is that Archie is the numbers man, getting all the sums right, and Nigel is the fixer and communicator. There is never any doubt about who the boss is."

Kingfisher says that its priority is the development of existing businesses, but no one would be surprised to see it continuing to expand through acquisitions. That much can be gauged from the company's own profile sheet, in which it declares itself to be "not opposed in principle to growth by acquisition if a sufficiently attractive opportunity can be demonstrated to be in the interests of shareholders and the business as a whole".

Mulcahy's friends say that he waxes lyrical when he speaks of business, and derives fun from it. But, one adds, he can make immense demands on the people around him, and often expects them to share his own planning rigour. "If ever people want something from him, he will have a look and see what else is on his own agenda for them. There is absolutely no chance that he will concede what they are after until they have done likewise for him. He will do so even if there is apparently no causal connection."

Mulcahy is given to using the Thackerayesque "we", not only to emphasize collective boardroom credit, but also to deflect attention away from himself and towards the company. Even while posing for photographers on Tuesday, he refused to be alone in the picture. You could say personal publicity is the sole area in which he resists the use of tight focus.

Alan Franks

Farewell, greedy Eighties

The decade began with a heritage row (should Bernini's "Alcibiades" be saved for the nation?), arguments about the Ring, and fears of a depression. It ended with a heritage row (can Canova's "The Three Graces" be saved?), arguments about the Ring, and fears of inflation followed by a collapse in prices.

In the course of the 1980s, the world record for a painting rose from £2.7 million to more than £30 million. If this momentum continues, the figure will be at least £200 million by the end of the century. Somehow, such a price seems unlikely. Art collecting has changed from the cool, esoteric pursuit of the aesthete to a gambler's casino, backed by borrowed money. Only one thing has remained

constant: those perennial headline-breaking "discoveries" from the Torquay flower pot which turned out in 1980 to be a £265,000 15th-century Chinese vase, to the up-market garden gnome by the Mannerist sculptor de Vries, which last week fetched £6.8 million.

Otherwise, the market is revealed in flashbacks to have changed. "There is a lot to be said at the moment for having your money earning interest of 20 per cent or so, rather than tied up in works of art in the hope of long-term appreciation," one commentator wrote in 1980, after a series of sales hiccups. The favourite phrase of reporters at that time was "selective buying".

The market was dominated by dealers, and had scarcely experienced the "Impressionist effect", which now earns the lion's share of proceeds at auction rooms. The Henry Ford II collection of Van Goghs, a Cézanne and a Degas was greeted as a strange new animal when offered in May 1980 in New York. "Paintings of this importance are rarely sold at auction. It is less risky to sell privately through a dealer when large sums are involved," *The Times* observed.

In the early 1980s, dealers expected prices in the order of £900,000 for Impressionist paintings. Now they can look to £20 million or more. And the money is usually found for them through a bank loan, or even from Sotheby's, which has gradually taken on an all-purpose function.

The field is increasingly dominated by private buyers from all over the world. The Japanese are taking over



Sarah Jane Checkland

because they can borrow from their banks at interest rates often as low as 3 per cent.

In 1980, our museums were forces in the market. The National Gallery paid £2.3 million for Rubens's "Samson and Delilah" at Christie's. If inflation is taken into account, that record has never been broken. Now, museum purchase programmes have largely dried up, and for their rare acquisitions they depend on clever tax deals, under which owners are allowed by the Treasury to waive inheritance tax.

The decade has unearthed a wealth of "yuppie" categories, such as modern watches and pop memorabilia, which would have been inconceivable in 1980. An experiment by Sotheby's with contemporary art at the beginning of the decade was a flop, with 39 per cent of items offered unsold. Its similar sale in New York last month totalled £61.97 million, including the world record for a living artist of £13 million for de Kooning's painting "Interchange".

Due to forward planning by auctioneers, who recognized that traditional art such as Old

Master paintings and furniture were drying up, 1988 saw a climax of tawdry trends. Elton John's art nouveau and platform boots fetched £4.8 million; Liberace's pianos £1.2 million; Andy Warhol's cookie jars £13.5 million. Sotheby's also invaded two hitherto forbidden cities, with auctions in both Moscow and Peking.

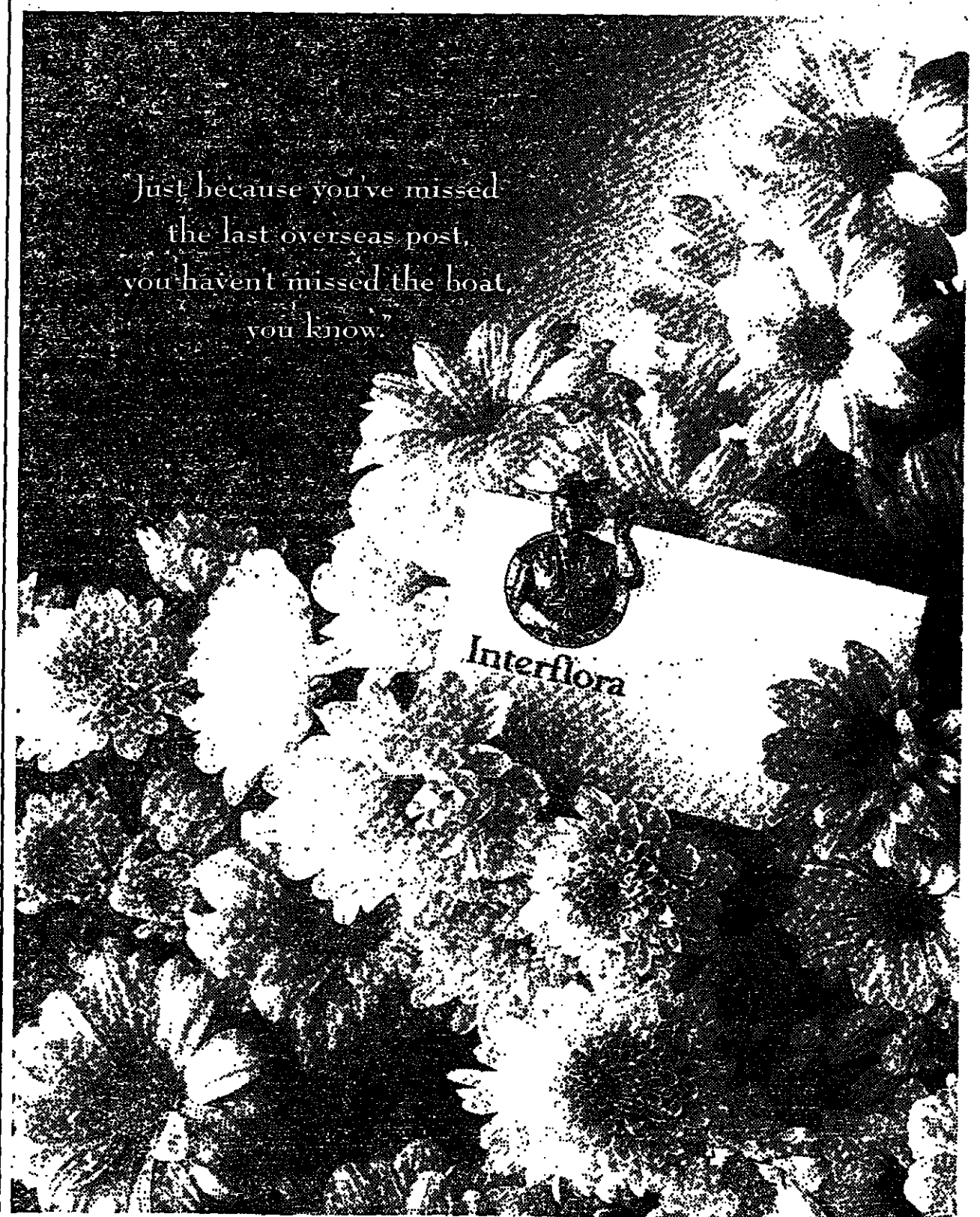
The decade had its upheavals, not least the takeover of Sotheby's by the American hamburger and real estate magnate Alf Taubman. The scandal which followed Christie's admission that it had pretended two Impressionist paintings had sold in 1981 when they hadn't, had a generally damaging effect on the profession.

During mid-decade, British lobbyists warned of a "Treasure Houses factor"—the fear that the big Washington exhibition of works from our country houses would act as a shopfront for more buyers of our inheritance. Such theories are impossible to prove, but a highlight of the exhibition, Canova's "The Three Graces", from Woburn Abbey, is the subject to an export stop while museums try to raise the necessary £7.6 million to buy it.

As the auctioneers put the finishing touches on their end-of-decade results, observers are left giddy by the recent roller-coaster of prices for the dozens of Picassos lured onto the market by the boom. The only people confident of a profitable future must be the thieves and fakers who, in this atmosphere of greed and gullibility, have much to gain and little to lose.

THE RISING PRICE OF A DECADE

	1980	1989
World record for a painting	"Juliet and her Nurse", JMW Turner, £2.7 million	Joint record: Van Gogh, "Irises", £30.2 million in 1987; Picasso's "Les Femmes d'Alger" in Paris 1989
Highest price, English furniture	£131,618	£265,714
Highest price, Benin bronze	£200,000	£1.22 million
Average price, Utrillo	£12,500	£150,000
Heritage row, export licence	Alcibiades bust, priced at £260,000	Canova, "The Three Graces" at £7.6 million
Christie's turnover	£49 million	£1.04 billion
Auction, Stanley Spencer	£16,000	£429,000



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TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

This column is not alone in scouring Eastern Europe for political jokes about the current turmoil, and generally failing. The author Paul Theroux, back at his south London home after a fruitless joke search through Germany, tells me: "The situation doesn't lend itself, humour comes out of conflict, and this is a resolution of conflict." He found Germans ready to fall about helplessly at the mere mention of Chancellor Kohl's nickname (*Der Birne* — The Pear — from the shape of his face), but utterly unable to see anything funny or satirical in their eastern brothers' stumblings towards democracy. Invited to make an unexpected after-dinner speech, Theroux chose the topic of German humour, and left his audience comprehensively baffled. He could have tried this one on them: with thousands of East Germans going west and West Germans going east, we need not worry about reunification, because for the first time in history the country is figured out as a way to invade itself. On reflection, that would have gone down like a lead Zeppelin too.

Hardly in the vanguard of the animal rights movement, the French are infinitely more concerned about the quality of what is on their plate than about any suffering it may have endured on its way there. Thus, one leading producer of *pâté de foie gras* is happily featuring a fine fat goose in pre-Christmas newspaper advertisements warning the public to beware of imitations, without wasting a word on the repulsive force-feeding methods required to produce suitably swollen livers. What's more, the newspaper concerned is *Le Monde*, renowned for its broadly left-wing view of the world, with greenish tinge. It just goes to show that when it comes to the French and food, politics only gets in the way.

Christmas cheer in a fairy tale of New York. Marc Wein got out of a taxi on Fifth Avenue late the other night and realized after it had driven off that his pocket-sized cellular phone had slipped from his briefcase during the ride. What to do? New York taxi drivers, to put it charitably, are not renowned for their honesty, and the chances of retrieving the phone seemed slim. Then, inspiration. The phone was switched on. No Wein walked to a public booth and dialled its number. After 15 rings, a woman passenger in the taxi answered warily (probably suspecting she was on *Candid Camera*). Wein asked to speak to the driver; he got his phone back, and the driver was rewarded with a hefty tip.

BARRY FANTONI



'Not so bad. He'll just think of it as twice round the M25'

Opening a package of accountancy training manuals ordered from South Africa, staff at Christian Aid's London headquarters were surprised to find the batch augmented by three volumes they had not asked for, and which the publishers swear they had not sent. The unexpected additions were a well-thumbed biography of explorer Mary Kingsley, the script of the film *Out of Africa* and — pick of the bunch — Wimpey de Klerk's study *The Puritans in Africa: A Story of Afrikanerdom*. I cannot decide whether the South African censors are becoming increasingly careless in repacking the parcels they rummage, or increasingly bold in stuffing approved reading matter into other people's post.

Four years after an outburst of apathy and ridicule closed its production line, the preposterous Sinclair C5 electric pram is enjoying a revival. Maurice Levenson, a sharp Liverpool wheeler-dealer, bought up the entire unsold stock of 7,500. Now he tells me he has disposed of the lot, and is scouring the world for more to satisfy a queue of customers, mainly in sun-drenched Mediterranean holiday resorts where the runabout's gastropodous top speed and absolute absence of weather protection are less of a drawback than in, say, Luton station car park on a December Thursday. Where young Maurice has proved himself even cleverer than the wondrously cerebral Sir Clive is to flog the things for £699 plus VAT, almost double their original list price. Levenson, I need hardly add, drives a Porsche.

I am currently involved in recording more deathless instalments of *Just a Minute*, a long-running Radio 4 panel game in which contestants try to speak for 60 seconds on a random subject without repeating themselves, hesitating (an "um" is enough to deprive you of your turn) or veering from the broad meaning of the word prescribed. A little thought will make readers appreciate that thrown into a spontaneous monologue on say, Vapour Rub, the speaker is unlikely to come forth with a reasoned treatise on the benefits and defects which, in normal circumstances, could be gleaned after an hour or two of research. This brings me to a letter just received from a man with a hyphenated name living in London E3 3AR.

"Reference *Just a Minute*: you should never, never put ginger in

spotted dick. It is a travesty, a betrayal of all that is best and British. Yours sincerely,"

Even before the post arrived it had been a rotten day, with my shares under-performing and the Alka Seltzer packet empty again. Hyphenated man takes me to task about a recent *Just a Minute* programme in which the chairman had said: "Spotted dick for one minute, Clement."

"It is a delicacy," said I; (the first few seconds are not crucial; whoever interrupts has to take on the subject and it is much more effective to let others do the donkey work before pressing the buzzer and being left with 10 seconds and the ensuing bounty).

"Spotted Dick is a predominantly English confection," and, knowing how very helpful are lists when it comes to filibustering, I launched into "usually made with some or all of self-raising flour, bicarbonate of soda, salt, suet, water, currants, raisins, sultanas, candied peel, crystallized ginger, milk, eggs and sugar blended together over heat, custard is a popular accompaniment to spotted dick (you can repeat the key word) as is single, double, or whipped cream — also the condensed issue of a cow's udder that may be purchased in supermarkets in red and white tins bearing the word Carnation." One cannot take a breath between

sentences nor pause for effect; one gallops on.

Well, hyphenated man from East London, I wanted you to know what caused me to mention these good products in one

CLEMENT
FREUD

Boat people: American humbug at full pitch

Ronald Butt urges all-party support for the Government's only course

There can be few people who did not feel a deep and instinctive sense of dismay on first hearing that 51 of the Vietnamese boat people who had fled to Hong Kong had been repatriated against their will. I certainly did. Their case is vastly more compelling in a moral, if not a legal, sense than the one advanced for issuing passports to 3.28 million people in Hong Kong on the specious argument that most of them would not be taken up.

Yet glib sentimentality must be avoided. Governments have to play with the cards they are dealt and must often choose the lesser of two evils. That is what the Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, has had to do in this case. The more rationally the facts are examined, the more nauseous appears the barrage of allegations of British inhumanity.

Migrants from Vietnam have been landing in Hong Kong since 1979. Some are political refugees; others are economic migrants in search of a better life. The case of the boat people has been under repeated UN review

at Geneva and the West has agreed to resettle 58,000 of the early migrants who were classified as genuine political refugees (a generous estimate). That was the number who had arrived before the screening process began to distinguish the refugees from the economic migrants, and most were really in the second category.

But no decision was taken on what was to happen to the economic migrants after that cut-off date, and in 1987/88 there was a dramatic increase in arrivals. As the situation worsened in the Hong Kong encampments, with the rising danger of disease and violence, Britain warned the rest of the West that something had to be done about those who had been found, by screening on UN principles, to be economic migrants.

At a conference last June, Britain made it clear that there would have to be "involuntary repatriation" of those who were not political refugees, and asked

for alternatives. Nothing was offered. The rest of the West, including the United States, made it plain that they did not want the non-refugees. It was agreed that they should be returned to their country of origin, but on a voluntary basis. A voluntary programme has in fact been running for a year, with no real effect, and this October the US blocked any alternative, saying that Britain must wait for the programme to build up. To Britain's inquiry how long we must wait with boat people flooding in, the Americans' private reply was four or five years. Hence this week's action.

If nothing were done, many thousands more would arrive on the spring tides in 1990. Repatriating 51 migrants is a warning to prevent this. It is a token, but there will have to be a follow-up. There were 70 new arrivals on the day the 51 left. One method contemplated is a quick turn-round of new arrivals, with much quicker screening

to discover genuine refugees and the rest returned immediately. The distinction between a refugee and an economic migrant must be made, short of a worldwide open-door policy that allowed settlement rights anywhere to everyone wishing to better his material prospects. No country accepts that. Certainly not the Americans, who return would-be immigrants over their southern border every day, just as we return mainland Chinese from Hong Kong.

How dare they then complain against a repatriation on which Vietnam has given undertakings of good treatment and which is to be monitored by two British political observers, one of them the Labour peer Lord Ennals? (Monitoring facilities will, of course, have to be increased when the numbers require it.)

Some would argue that even if the migrants left for economic reasons, they made themselves political refugees by incurring a risk in going back. Against that,

the evidence is that the Vietnamese have kept their word in respect of the refugees who have returned so far. To encourage their good reception, the Americans would do better to join with Britain and other countries to provide aid and "soft" loans to Vietnam (for whose condition they have some responsibility) just as we were doing for China before Tiananmen Square.

Though he has attacked the repatriation, Lord Ennals has agreed there is a distinction between political refugees and economic lot, without which distinction "you won't be able to help real refugees". But that distinction is pointless if it does not allow different treatment of the two categories, which implies a right not to accept economic migrants. A cardinal principle of international order is still that each country has the right to accept whom it wishes. Do Mr Kinnoch and Mr Paddy Ashdown dispute that?

The claim that refugees from European communist countries have been treated differently is nonsense. The West Germans received East Germans because they wanted to, because they are the same people and because their constitution requires it. It would have been quite different had it been we who faced floods of East German economic migrants.

This unhappy business must not be exploited for party purposes. For opposition parties that should mean broad support for the only honest solution. From the media, it requires reason and fairness. That means an end to the kind of comment with which the BBC's *Newsnight* report described the repatriation as "dictated by Hong Kong's masters in London" and as "executed with almost Teutonic thoroughness", the overtones of which cliché need no elaboration. There must be some way in which the international community can help, but if it will not, the British government must stand by the lesser of the two evils with which it is faced.

Bernard Levin suggests an antidote to the obsession with ever-longer prison sentences

Oh, to slap the jailer in the jug

What is to be done about the Home Office? The Levin solution — to burn the place to the ground and sow the ruins with salt — has been rejected again and again, no satisfactory reason being given. Yet no other serious solution has ever been put forward, and its inequities grow more noisome and more frequent with every year that passes.

Its officials (who in any case perpetrate their kind by finding and training recruits in what is expected of them) are adept in bamboozlement, particularly when Labour is in power, when the ministers are always fighting a rear-guard action against the department's ethos, which, broadly speaking, consists of stamping out decency and good sense alike, wherever they are to be found.

When the Tories are in office, and more particularly when (as now) they are out of favour, the policy is to whip up the most brutish part of the population by insisting on longer sentences and extra humiliations for prisoners. And when (also as now) the Home Secretary is in favour of capital punishment, the Office's cup runneth over. (Of course, when a genuinely humane Tory is Home Secretary, the bamboozlement department works overtime to stop him doing anything useful. Poor Reggie Maudling, as decent a rogue as you could hope to find, achieved practically nothing in his time at the Home Office.)

And here we are again. Everybody but me, it seems, has forgotten that Mr David

Waddington had been at the Home Office before, from 1983 to 1987, as Minister of State, and shown himself a most apt pupil in Home Office ways; so apt, indeed, that he was put in charge of the section concerned with — in language he would never employ — keeping the niggles out, and he kept them out with such assiduity that I believe one or two had the effrontery to set fire to themselves when they got home. (You may also recall the dramatic scene at Heathrow when a number of Tamil refugees, about to be bundled on to a plane sending them back, tore off all their clothes, the point of such immodest behaviour being not that the weather was excessively sultry, but that they thus circumvented the Home Office's trick of getting them out of the country before they could exercise their right to a court hearing. Jolly fellow, Mr Waddington.)

At present, prisoners sentenced to a period of one year or less are entitled to be released halfway through their sentence, as remission for good behaviour. Moreover, good behaviour in practice means only an absence of bad behaviour; no meritorious deeds have to be accomplished. In addition, prisoners inside for more than a year are equally entitled to the remission of one-third of their sentence on the same basis.

I dare say those humane and — much more important — sensible concessions took anything up to a century to pass through the Home Office's needle-eye. (It is, after all, still implacably opposed to letting prisoners have law-tories.) But the way back through

the needle is invariably well-greased for easier passage; we now learn that under Mr Waddington's regime no prisoner will be released under the good behaviour rule until he has completed half his sentence, irrespective of its length, and the parole system will also be screwed tighter. And of course, if you have followed me this far, you will experience no surprise on hearing that Mr Waddington, staring with the nation's thoughts on punishment, did not fail to say "more meaning must be restored to the sentence of the court".

They will toast him in the four-ale bar, which is, after all, the point of the exercise. But it will not bring the crime rate down. Again and again it has been tried; no mercy for the criminal, life imprisonment must mean life, an end to desirous sentences. The same peddling of nostrums known to have no discernible effect has been repeatedly saluted as the philosopher's stone of the problem of crime and punishment, and when each successive string of the same failed policies is concluded, there is still no sign that the Home Office has learned the lesson, or even discovered that there is a lesson to be learned.

Mr Waddington insists that "more meaning must be restored to the sentence of the court", or, in simpler words, criminals should serve longer sentences. It never occurs to him to wonder why that should be done, if lengthening sentences does not in fact cause the crime rate to



fall. Nor is it a popular cry, and here is one simple enough to be understood by anyone: "Bang them up and throw away the key!" It's a mercy that Mr Waddington hasn't yet spoken up for the cat-o'-nine-tails, and I dare say that if three by-elections are lost in rapid succession he will. Moreover, he doesn't even have to pretend; I am sure he genuinely believes the nonsense he talks, and if there is another debate on capital punishment, he will go into the eye lobby because he wants to, not to improve his standing with the

Tory backbenchers. The vice *anglais*, so dubbed by the folk at the other end of the Channel Tunnel (which, incidentally, will never be finished), is widely believed to refer to homosexuality, but it doesn't. It means flagellation. The French, and indeed almost all the rest of the world, have been amazed for centuries by the English habit, begun at school but continuing for ever, of hitting one another with sticks and suchlike; statistics must inevitably be difficult or impossible to acquire, but I would bet a lot that the English

would demonstrate an addiction to algolagnia far greater than in any other country, Baron de Charlus or no Baron de Charlus. Wicked people must be hurt, and preferably humiliated at the same time. Since we don't flag criminals any more, or hang them (*absit Waddington*), we put them in prison, and the longer we can keep them there, the better pleased we are, since the conditions of squalor and stench simply supply the required humiliation.

The fact that doing such things to wicked people does not stop them being wicked, let alone contemplating wickedness, has nothing to do with the principle. No, no, just chant "More meaning must be restored to the sentence of the court", and all will be well, until of course the crime rate goes up again, when — if the Home Office has anything to do with it — we shall hear cries of "Even more meaning must be restored to the sentence of the court".

Not long after the Second World War, the French equivalent of the Home Office began a massive programme of rebuilding and modernizing France's prison system, a policy rooted in the admirable principle of lifting, not degrading, prisoners, on the reasonable supposition, incomprehensible to our Home Office, that if a prisoner is not deprived of his self-respect he is more likely to go straight than if he is.

I have been told, and have no cause to doubt it, how such an attitude came to prevail in France. It seems that the minister whose responsibilities included prisons had himself spent time inside, because of his activities with the Resistance; he therefore had the very best experience on which to base his policy. If anyone can think of a watertight frame-up for the Home Secretary, guaranteed to put him away for at least a year, I would be delighted to see the details under plain cover.

Frances Gibb assesses Lord Mackay's revised reforms

Lawyers return to the fray

Bar's monopoly. The Bar will resist every step of the way.

Although the White Paper's aim was to widen the consumer's choice of lawyer, the Bar drew comfort from its insistence that changes should be made only in the "interests of justice", believing this radical reform could be shown to damage these interests. Solicitors feared that judges would use this phrase to justify any restriction they felt necessary to prevent a real incursion by solicitors.

What now emerges, in undoubtedly the most controversial part of the Bill, is that a statutory objective of greater public choice is to be overriding. Whether a person will be granted a right of audience is to be determined only by reference to whether he or she is appropriately qualified, and a member of an appropriate professional body. The "interests of justice" principle is now subordinate, and applies only to assessing rules governing professional standards. After this setback, the

Bar will, as a priority, press for the "interests of justice" principle to be re-instated as primary. A long list of peers, led by Lord Renton, is expected to make its case.

It is equally important to the Bar that its independence be enshrined in statute. But because that would enable the Bar to challenge the government in the courts over the reforms, Lord Mackay will be reluctant to accede to it.

The judges, for their part, are pleased that the Government has met their central concern, that the original proposal for a complex system for licensing advocates posed a constitutional threat to judicial independence. The proposal was not included in the White Paper, and new machinery, involving the judges, was devised for drawing up rules on rights of audience. This provides that the new rules, to be drawn up by lawyers themselves, must be approved by the senior judges and the Lord Chancellor. The Bill has made clear that

any one of the senior judges can veto the rules which will allow solicitors into the higher courts. But at the same time, the Bill imposes a requirement that a judge who exercises this veto must specify his reasons. A veto could, ultimately, be challenged.

Although pleased by the prospect of wider rights of audience, solicitors oppose the proposals to open the conveyancing market to other professionals. The Law Society believes the entry into the housebuyers' market of big financial institutions could do immense economic damage to many solicitors' firms and might deprive housebuyers of independent advice. But the society recognizes that change is inevitable, and will not seek to obstruct it. Instead it will try to ensure that the safeguards for the public are effective, that the institutions' new activities are properly regulated, and that the public has a choice between a "tied" service and an independent conveyancing service of

fered by a solicitor or licensed conveyancer.

A second concern — shared by the Bar — is about proposals to lift the statutory ban on partnerships between professionals in different disciplines. The Law Society opposes such multi-disciplinary partnerships. Under the Bill, it would be free to retain its own restrictions, so that, for instance, solicitors could not set up shop with accountants. But these restrictions in turn would be subject to scrutiny by the proposed new competition authority. This raises the spectre of yet further argument over rules governing the provision of legal services.

Two issues unite lawyers across their professional barricades. Barristers, solicitors and consumer groups are all likely to express concern at proposals which aim to devolve many civil cases from the High Court to the county courts at a time when county courts are strapped for cash. Lord Mackay has to some extent pre-empted criticism here

by his plans for 400 extra staff and more money.

All the interested groups are also likely to criticize the Government over the absence in the Bill of measures to increase the provision of legal aid. There is growing support, too, for the Law Society's proposed clause to extend the Ombudsman's jurisdiction to cover mistakes by court officials. The Consumers' Association will press for an end to lawyers' indemnity against being sued for negligence over work done in court.

Beyond the Bill, the proposed reforms will have repercussions for relations between the judiciary and the executive. The judges feel themselves under siege from the Government, and no longer trust the Lord Chancellor, as head of the judiciary, to represent them in Cabinet.

Their priority, to reinforce their constitutional position, is to put the Judges' Council, the body of senior judges, on a statutory footing, so that the Government will have a duty to consult it. Some judges also support the proposal for a judicial commission, which would remove from the Lord Chancellor the sole responsibility for recommending judicial appointments. The judiciary is determined to secure immunity from executive interference.

Let's play spot the deviant

I am currently involved in recording more deathless instalments of *Just a Minute*, a long-running Radio 4 panel game in which contestants try to speak for 60 seconds on a random subject without repeating themselves, hesitating (an "um" is enough to deprive you of your turn) or veering from the broad meaning of the word prescribed. A little thought will make readers appreciate that thrown into a spontaneous monologue on say, Vapour Rub, the speaker is unlikely to come forth with a reasoned treatise on the benefits and defects which, in normal circumstances, could be gleaned after an hour or two of research. This brings me to a letter just received from a man with a hyphenated name living in London E3 3AR.

"Reference *Just a Minute*: you should never, never put ginger in

spotted dick. It is a travesty, a betrayal of all that is best and British. Yours sincerely,"

Even before the post arrived it had been a rotten day, with my shares under-performing and the Alka Seltzer packet empty again. Hyphenated man takes me to task about a recent *Just a Minute* programme in which the chairman had said: "Spotted dick for one minute, Clement."

"It is a delicacy," said I; (the first few seconds are not crucial; whoever interrupts has to take on the subject and it is much more effective to let others do the donkey work before pressing the buzzer and being left with 10 seconds and the ensuing bounty).

"Spotted Dick is a predominantly English confection," and, knowing how very helpful are lists when it comes to filibustering, I launched into "usually made with some or all of self-raising flour, bicarbonate of soda, salt, suet, water, currants, raisins, sultanas, candied peel, crystallized ginger, milk, eggs and sugar blended together over heat, custard is a popular accompaniment to spotted dick (you can repeat the key word) as is single, double, or whipped cream — also the condensed issue of a cow's udder that may be purchased in supermarkets in red and white tins bearing the word Carnation." One cannot take a breath between

sentences nor pause for effect; one gallops on.

Well, hyphenated man from East London, I wanted you to know what caused me to mention these good products in one

breath. I'm sorry about spotted dick and ginger. You are right; there is too much messing about with traditional receipts (though some have not much more than tradition and history to recommend them); an Irish stew made with herbs from Provence is delicious, but it is not strictly an Irish stew, any more than Olde English Sherry Trifle is any of those things when fashioned of kiwi-fruit.

Brandy butter is correct; rum butter is just permissible with Christmas pudding. Amaretto butter, excellent though it is, comes under the heading of "betrayal of all that is best and British" — being best and Italian.

That distinguished chef Monsieur Anton Mosimann would be just the man for a filibustering panel game: he has published a Guest List — nine pages of customers who have eaten his food — which he could use for just about every *Jab* topic.

The next subject is safety razors.

"Here is a list of some people who did or possibly never used safety razors: I shall start with His Excellency Boukar Abdou, Special Envoy and Ambassador of the Chad Republic..."

As Mosimann was *chef de cuisine* of the Dorchester Hotel for many years, his list mentions most people of note, though I

could not help noticing that the Kray brothers were not included. (My grand-twins Max and Harry auditioned to play Ronnie and Reg in a forthcoming film about the brothers and failed to get the parts "because they did not take direction". My grand-twins are three years old.)

Mr Mosimann starts off with The Queen, followed by the Royal Family, and proceeds in alphabetical order through the palaces of Belgium, Denmark, the Hellenes, Luxembourg, their serene Highnesses of Monaco, pauses and lists the Shah of Iran, King Bhumibol of Thailand, Haile Selassie and continues via Personalities and Distinguished Figures, through World of Entertainment to Chefs, Food Writers and finally Journalists.

I appear as a distinguished figure — nowhere else. No repetition. The man is a natural.

Johnnie Walker



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

A CHANCE TO BE BETTER

"I'm with you on the free press", says a character in a Tom Stoppard play. "It's the newspapers I can't stand". It is a sentiment which finds frequent expression among the chattering classes, and it seemed for a time earlier this year that it might lead to some form of statutory intervention. Two private members' Bills received considerable support from MPs of all parties. The Right of Reply Bill contained a clause establishing a Press Commission. The Protection of Privacy Bill was directed at providing a legal remedy for unjustified invasion of privacy.

The Press Council concedes that it was very largely this flurry of public concern which lay behind its decision to conduct a major internal review — the first since it was established as the General Council of the Press in 1953. The review body has now produced a bulky document which ranges widely over complaints procedures, a code of practice and enforcement. Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, the council's chairman, said on Tuesday, "We should take time to make sure we do get it right". The decision to embark on a six-month period of consultation indicates that there is more than one view within the council about whether it has yet done that.

The proposal to reduce the size of the council to 24 is sensible: its present strength of 36 is distinctly unwieldy. The principle of parity between public and press representatives is a sound one (it was, surprisingly, established only 11 years ago) and is to continue. The suggestion that the council's press members should in future be selected by the council's Appointments Commission rather than nominated by constituent bodies, has less to commend it, and was opposed by two members of the Review Committee. The report confines itself to saying that a majority no longer saw it as the most appropriate method of selection. They appear to overlook the fact that so far as journalism is concerned, the council is a self-regulatory body, and that to modify the system in the way they suggest would considerably change its complexion.

With the broad thrust of the proposed code of conduct there can be little disagreement. There should be freedom to be partisan, but not to dress up comment or conjecture as fact; there should be opportunities to reply; limits must be set on the use of subterfuge; significant inaccuracies should be promptly and prominently corrected. There is nothing in any of that which places journalists under professional constraint.

HOPE FOR HEATHROW

The first step towards equipping London to compete with Paris as the transport hub of Europe has finally been taken with the release of the Heathrow Express Rail Bill from the procedural thickets in which it had become entangled in the Commons. Today, a committee of MPs will decide whether to go ahead with hearings on the redevelopment of King's Cross, to provide a second terminal for the Channel tunnel.

The delay on the Bill — revived after it had been killed for reasons wholly unconnected with the substance of the legislation — points to the urgency of protecting private Bills from veto by individual MPs. There are understandable concerns about bypassing planning procedures, but promoters have the right to expect each Bill to be treated on its merits.

The Heathrow private Bill, submitted by British Rail and a subsidiary of the British Airports Authority, is now expected to clear its final hurdles early next summer, and the express link between Heathrow and Paddington should be completed three years later. The six million passengers expected to use it will reach London from Heathrow in 16 minutes. Trains will run every 15 minutes and travel at 100 mph. The journey will cost £6 — three times the current fare on the slow and uncomfortable Piccadilly Line.

It is important to move ahead rapidly both with the King's Cross scheme, and with plans for a £1.5 billion East-West crossrail between Paddington and Liverpool Street — which should now be preferred to the rival Hackney-Chelsea scheme. Taken together, they would put Central London within sight of an efficient transit system.

The Heathrow link would set important precedents for modernizing the capital's transport systems. The British Airports Au-

thority will put up 80 per cent of the £235 million investment, which includes an extra £12 million for tunnelling required on environmental grounds. It is BAA's first significant investment in supporting transport infrastructure for Heathrow, and the first time it has joined forces with British Rail. Profits will be shared *pro rata*, although British Rail will, as required by its statutes, receive a guaranteed return, leaving BAA to shoulder the commercial risk.

As important as the rail link is the speedy development of a fifth terminal for Heathrow, on the site of the Perry Oaks sludge farm. The new terminal, which would handle an extra 25 million passengers a year, is viewed by airlines as indispensable if Heathrow is to compete with the "Golden Hub" development of Charles de Gaulle airport near Paris.

The project is enormously complex, involving costly site clearance, a motorway-standard spur road and, in all probability, the doubling of the M25 to 12 lanes. If started now, the new terminal would open only in 1999. The relevant planning application cannot however even be submitted until the Government and BAA resolve their dispute over funding road access. No decision on that is now expected before the spring.

British Airways yesterday concluded a deal with Sabena and KLM which will enable it to exploit underused capacity in Brussels. The company has thus served notice that, if there are delays in expanding Heathrow's capacity, it has cards to play on the other side of the Channel. In an effort to speed up the development of the Heathrow terminal, BAA has already begun site clearance. The Transport Secretary, Mr Parkinson, should respond by giving resolution of the dispute over the all-important road links the highest priority.

It was Albert Camus who wrote that a free press could be good or bad, but that without freedom it would most certainly never be anything but bad. "Freedom", he added, "is nothing else but a chance to be better". Judiciously amended, the Press Council report could reinforce that chance.

VALUE FOR MONEY

The National Audit Office rarely emerges from behind the arras of anonymity. The leaked letter on the subject of the Government's dowry for Rover on its sale to British Aerospace provided a brief flicker of light on the work of this important watchdog for the taxpayer's interests. But as the annual report published yesterday reminds us, the breadth of its responsibilities spreads through every aspect of £300 billion of Government spending and revenue.

The present Government has made greater efforts to achieve value for money on the taxpayer's behalf than any of its recent predecessors. The credit for this goes mainly to Mrs Thatcher's housewifely obsession with minding the pennies so that the pounds may look after themselves. Politicians do not generally go into politics to be managers. Officials have greater incentive to build empires than to get more out of less. In the system we have, much the best way to keep up pressure for good housekeeping is by a good dose of nannying from the top.

Privatization, the financial management initiative in the civil service, pay flexibility and more recently the Next Steps programme under which several government services are being given much greater independence have all contributed to improved incentives for value for money. Concern about the output of services as well as the input of money is now a significant feature of the annual expenditure round.

No one can pretend, however, that there is not a long way to go. Part of the NAO's job is to keep up the pressure. Among the failings still

found among Whitehall departments the Comptroller and Auditor General, Mr John Bourn, singles out vague objectives used as an excuse for missed targets, a lack of commercial insight, poor management of assets including unsatisfactory stock control and poor monitoring. Everyone has their own story of public sector assets lying idle where private owners would realize the money for re-use. Breaking down the barriers between public and private sectors and importing some of the attitudes and incentives of business into government is one of the most important ways of improving public sector value for money. A topical example is the present experimentation with privately-owned toll roads.

Where the NAO's wisdom does come before the public eye it is usually via the House of Commons' Public Accounts Committee which uses the Office's reports for its own investigations. These take the form of inquiries on events which may have taken place months or even years earlier. Mr Bourn says that the NAO's aim is to be forward looking and constructive. Arguably the Office should have a greater say in devising ways of avoiding repetition of the offences it chronicles and improving systems for the future as well as recording the errors of the past.

It is a tribute to Britain's public sector accountants that the NAO has been selected to audit several international bodies, despite charging full cost recovery unlike many of its counterparts in other countries. The Office would benefit from a higher profile.

Uncertainties on contractual law

From Dr F. A. Mann, FBA
Sir, Many of your readers may be unaware of the Contracts (Applicable Law) Bill which the Lord Chancellor has recently introduced in the House of Lords. It purports to give effect to the Rome Convention of 1980 on the law applicable to contractual obligations, which has so far been ratified by six of the member states of the EC and will come into force upon ratification by a seventh member.

The United Kingdom signed it in 1981. It was hoped that silence during a period of more than eight years indicated the disappearance from the English scene of an unfortunate piece of uniform legislation allegedly required in the illusory interest of the harmonization of laws which, of course, can never guarantee harmonization of results in a given case.

The last eight years have proved that Europe can live very well without this Convention. It can be asserted with confidence that its absence did not hinder the conclusion of a single transaction and that its ratification will not in any way contribute to the promotion of business or the creation of a truly free and common market.

Why, then, should we suddenly adopt a text which in many respects is imperfect, which is unlikely to make for greater certainty and which, on the contrary, will require interpretation and thus lead to uncertainty?

Finally, by ratification this country will break an important link with all those English-speaking countries whose conflict of laws is derived from and continuously influenced and supported by English case law. If it is said that the Convention does not substantially change English law, this is by no means proven and would in any event merely strengthen the argument for avoiding pitfalls.

Does the Lord Chancellor have no feeling for the superiority of law grown by experience and developed by judicial wisdom over statutory tests drawn up by a committee of theorists speaking different languages and trained in different legal systems?

Does he not know that even on the Continent the history of the conflict of law proves the creative force and, in the field of contracts, the soundness of the judge-made law?

Yours faithfully,
F. A. MANN,
The Athenaeum,
Falmouth, SW1,
December 12.

Rover 'leaks'

From Mr S. J. B. Langdale
Sir, Whatever short-term political advantage may seem to accrue from the use of "leaked" confidential documents, and however attractive the argument that it is in the public interest to reveal what they contain, the practice of using leaks in this way seems to be at best questionable.

By their actions, politicians making use of such leaks not only expose explicitly unprofessional practice by the perpetrators but almost certainly spawn further acts of the same kind. It is a pity that the euphemism "leaked" is used in reporting such incidents when the passing of confidential information would be better described as "breach of confidence".

Yours faithfully,
S. J. B. LANGDALE,
Park House,
Culworth, Oxfordshire.

Funds for hospitals

From Mr Redmond Mullin
Sir, A very muddled statement has come from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (report, December 6) on the legality of some fundraising appeals for hospitals, suggesting that the use of charitable funds for hospital services formerly largely covered by the NHS is illegal.

What Government does or does not fund is a matter of policy. The support of charitable objects — which includes most forms of normal health care — is distinct from this. Regardless of Government policies, it would arguably be damaging if charitable support were restricted to welfare and innovation, to the exclusion of core provision. Such an approach would have aborted development of private health care in the UK.

Fund-raising for proper charitable objects, promoted openly and without deception, remains legitimate until the law or its application is changed. What is legal and what is subjectively desirable do not always coincide.

Yours faithfully,
REDMOND MULLIN,
9 Fisher Street, Lewes, Sussex.

Racism and rights

From Professor Antony Flew
Sir, The Chief Executive of the Commission for Racial Equality (December 2) asserts, truly, that "segregation on racial grounds is unlawful under the Race Relations Act (and is dealt with as racial discrimination)". He then proceeds to argue that Section 35 of the same 1976 Act "makes it possible to make provision for particular ethnic groups to meet their special needs".

There would therefore appear to be a gross inconsistency within the Act itself. For what are these special needs which members of particular ethnic sets have in virtue of their being members of whatever is the particular ethnic sets in question?

Enforced repatriation under fire

From the Chairman of the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association

Sir, Our association has a membership of 400, mostly solicitors and barristers involved in, *inter alia*, refugee law, both nationally and internationally. We agree with Bernard Levin's contention, in his forceful and lurid article (December 7), that forcible repatriation of the Vietnamese refugees amounts to "inhuman and degrading treatment", in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights (Article 3). The Government must also not be allowed to get away from the fact that they are once again acting in breach of the 1951 Refugee Convention.

The Vietnamese refugees have political views which they have expressed in the most cogent way possible in the circumstances: they have walked (swum?) out on communism. That is, in my view, the clearest possible statement of political belief that anyone can devise. There is also a real risk that they will be persecuted.

Mr Douglas Hurd's argument that their motives are economic, and that they are therefore not genuine refugees, is disingenuous: economic persecution is part and parcel of other forms of persecution which leads the refugee to flee his country. Mr Hurd has said this before in circumstances where he was subsequently demonstrated to have been wrong — I have in mind, of course, the Tamil refugees whom the Government was forced by the courts to bring back to the UK.

Yours etc.,
ALPER RIZA, Chairman,
Immigration Law Practitioners' Association,
115 Old Street, EC1,
December 11.

From Mr David Bell
Sir, Caring criticism of repatriation comes ill from the USA, the principal architect of the tragedy and misery of Vietnam, with whom the responsibility for this situation lies.

There is a noticeable paucity of offers from the international community to absorb and rehabilitate these unfortunate people: nor is there the merest hint of a suggestion of a practical alternative. Nobody seems willing or able to accommodate them, perhaps because of a fear that they might be followed by thousands more. So much of South-east Asia is racked with poverty.

The treatment by the US of its own illegal immigrants from Mexico demonstrates the reality that, had the boat people reached Hawaii, they might all be back in Vietnam by now.

The teeming population of Hong Kong, one of the most overpopulated enclaves in the world, also has a right to survival.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BELL,
Lanthorne Lodge,
49 Lanthorne Road,
Broadstairs, Kent.

Probation role

From Mr Arnold Barrow
Sir, Your report (November 27) of allegations that the Home Office is planning to remove civil work from the duties of the probation service makes disturbing reading. The important and valuable work done by the probation service in the civil courts should not be underestimated.

An experienced probation officer is extremely well equipped to negotiate with estranged parents over questions of custody and access and in so doing often has to cope with aggression, threats of violence and high states of anxiety and bitterness. The result of the process then has to be assembled into a concise report for the court to enable the judge to make a proper decision. This is certainly no task for voluntary agencies.

In Suffolk a small team of officers takes civil work very seriously indeed and as well as serving the court provides a tremendous benefit to families in distress. We believe, also, that proper resolution of divorce problems is a significant contribution towards crime prevention. One only has to look at the backgrounds of men and women in prison to see that a high proportion come from broken homes.

I strongly suspect that, if given the chance, county court judges would unanimously vote to retain their highly skilled probation officers, advising and assisting them as well as the families caught up in the divorce process.

Yours faithfully,
ARNOLD BARROW
(Chief Probation Officer),
Suffolk Probation Service,
9a Lower Brook Street,
Ipswich, Suffolk.

Mr Sanders speaks vaguely of those who have "special cultural needs" and may need support from people speaking their own language. But if people who share a particular language or a particular religion have any consequent special needs, then those needs should be met for that reason; and not upon the properly irrelevant and racially discriminatory grounds that (most) speakers of that particular language and (most) adherents of that religion happen to be members of one or another ethnic set.

There is an enormously im-

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01782) 5046.

From Mr William Frankel
Sir, There must be millions of Britons, like me, who last night shifted uncomfortably in their beds and slept fitfully after hearing the appalling news that the British Government had commenced the forcible repatriation of the Vietnamese boat people.

I feel such shame. These poor wretches have suffered so much. The incredible risks they have taken in their perilous sea journeys to Hong Kong make the British Government's distinction between economic and real refugees an affront to the concept of humanity.

Have we sunk so low that in the dead of night we forcibly send people back against their will to a country from which they fled in fear and to an uncertain future?

This madness must stop now. If Mrs Thatcher and her Government continue in their arrogant disregard for the basic human rights of people then Britain will continue to sink even lower in the eyes of the international community. Where is the real moral leadership about which Mrs Thatcher constantly lectures us?

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM FRANKEL,
25a Frogmoor, NW3,
December 12.

From Mr James R. Mancham
Sir, As someone who has had, over the last 12 years, to assist many people in their quest for refugee status in this country since I found myself also a refugee in this land, I must admit that I have grave reservations about the newly developed "economic refugee" concept.

Agreeing that the burden of this current problem should not be borne by Britain alone, this is a matter of sufficient international human dimension to warrant a referral to the United Nations. At least then the responsibility for the sad decision to forcibly repatriate the Vietnamese refugees would reflect on the international community as a whole and not on Britain alone.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES R. MANCHAM,
85 Decar Road,
Putney, SW15,
December 11.

From Mr Norman Barrymaine
Sir, The Hong Kong Government has recently announced a massive public works programme, including the building of a new airport. This will not be completed until early in the next century, when Hong Kong will already have been handed over to communist China. But there is anxiety about the completion of this programme because of a shortage of labour.

The Vietnamese are noted for their cleverness and industry. The Hong Kong Government should give consideration to employing the 50,000 political and economic Vietnamese refugees on these important projects.

Yours sincerely,
NORMAN BARRYMAINE,
Le Lauro,
83620 Bargemon, France.

Judges and the law

From Mr Sproule Bolton
Sir, Your report (December 12) that the Lord Chief Justice is expected to be at the forefront of the opposition in the second reading debate on the Courts and Legal Services Bill on December 19.

May one hope that he and all other members of the judiciary and of the legal profession, past or present, who speak in this debate take the elementary step of declaring any personal interest in the Bill arising from their professional practice or from their connection with the Inns of Court as treasurer, past, present or prospective, or as Benchers, or as members.

Yours faithfully,
SPROULE BOLTON,
Gorse Cottage, Lydd Road,
Camber, Rye, East Sussex.

Over the farm gate

From Lord Stanley of Alderney
Sir, Your leading article (December 9), in common with the Government, fails to appreciate the crisis that exists for anyone who has started farming during the last five years who, unless able to invest upwards of £250,000 for little or no return, is unable to make a profit, due mainly to land prices, rents and interest rates being far too high.

Until the public, Government and Ministry of Agriculture in particular appreciate this, the economy, environment and social problems, including housing in the countryside will not be correctly tackled.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY OF ALDERNEY,
Trysilwyn Fawr,
Rhosybol, Amlwch, Anglesey.

Yours faithfully,
ANTONY FLEW,
26 Alexander Road,
Reading, Berkshire.

Parents' burden on student loans

From Professor Elie Kedourie, FBA

Sir, Mr Goldsobel argues (December 4) that the contribution which parents of university students are deemed to make to their children's maintenance, and which is therefore deducted from university grants, is both unpopular and problematic.

As he says, the contribution applies from very modest income levels. It is also steeply progressive, and deemed payable until the student reaches the age of 25, even though the law usually treats as an adult anyone over 18.

As I recall in my pamphlet, *Perestroika in the Universities*, recently published by the Institute of Economic Affairs health and welfare unit, this parental contribution was advocated by a minority of four members of the Anderson committee on student grants which reported in 1960. These four members gave two reasons for their recommendation. The first was that the parental contribution would prevent centralized bureaucratic control over the universities; what has happened since empties this argument of all substance.

Secondly, the minority argued that the parental contribution had to stand until there was clear evidence of the removal of those advantages that are held by many to be enjoyed by pupils from the larger and better-known independent and direct-grant schools in preparing for admission to certain universities and colleges, particularly at Oxford and Cambridge.

Eleven members of the committee, including the chairman, argued that the recommendation of the minority was an argument in favour of double taxation imposed on those unlikely enough to have children who might gain admittance to Oxford or Cambridge, and that nothing can justify such discrimination.

The Conservative Government of the day preferred the views of the minority, such as they were, to those of the majority, and successive governments have maintained these rules. But no one has ever explained or justified this highly discriminatory policy. Is it not high time to do away with it?

Yours faithfully,
ELIE KEDOURIE,
All Souls College,
Oxford.

From Miss K. A. Armstrong
Sir, Professor Barden's proposal for funding an expansion in higher education by means of a graduate tax is not a new idea as stated in the heading to Mr Kiley's article (Education, December 4), but the very old one of subjecting those with higher incomes to higher rates of taxation.

As someone who has enjoyed six years of higher education at Oxford University, funded by my local education authority and then by the British Academy, I am only too willing to pay a larger proportion of my future income in taxes than my contemporaries who left school without qualifications and whose earning potential is probably a fraction of mine.

Yours faithfully,
KATHERINE A. ARMSTRONG,
Flat 2,
7 Warborough Road,
Oxford.

Examination fatigue

From the Master of Hailbury
Sir, The secretary to the University of Oxford Delegacy of Local Examinations (December 7) states "It is impossible, as matters stand, to avoid some examinations before the summer half-term holiday".

Why? In the busy days when the GCSE examining groups were being set up, we were assured that there would be no GCSE examinations before the spring Bank holiday. The Northern Examining Association reneged almost as soon as the assurance was given and the other GCSE boards fell over themselves in their haste to follow suit. In 1990 most of the major examinations will have taken place before the May Bank holiday.

This is an intolerable situation and one which has ruined the summer term in schools. If the examining boards are not prepared to produce timetables which serve the interests of the candidates rather than of the boards, why does not the appropriate minister intervene to compel them to do so?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID JEWELL, Master,
Hailbury, Hertford,
December 7.

Advent fail-safe

From Mr P. B. Lewis
Sir, Dr Susan Laing's suggestion (December 5) that the prayer on "Stir-up Sunday" is a Church of England device for ensuring plenty of puddings for the vicar gains added weight when it is remembered that the prayer continues: "... that they, plentifully bringing forth the fruit of good works, ..."

Everyone knows what Christmas puddings are largely made of: and one can perhaps deduce that the words "bringing forth" show the trace of a rubric, subsequently suppressed, on the lines "Here, the congregations may, or may not, as the case may be, bring their fourth or fifth puddings for presentation to the incumbent".

Yours faithfully,
P. B. LEWIS,
Tythe Barn,
Farleigh Court Road,
Warrington, Surrey,
December 5.

HEALTH

Family doctors are overworked and under fire. Can the new general practice contract provide a cure?

What's wrong with GPs?



Personal service: Dr Peter Toon and two others care for 3,600 East End patients on the NHS

It is recommended that patients with simple flu should spare the doctor and go straight home to bed with a hot water bottle, plenty of fluids and a couple of aspirins (paracetamol for children) every six hours. But complications will inevitably arise in a number of cases, which will ensure that GPs' surgeries are full over the next few weeks.

But will patients receive the care they want and expect? Anna Bradley, head of the food and health group of the Consumers' Association, has little doubt that they will not. In October, the association carried out a nation-wide survey, questioning 1,015 adults in their own homes: fewer than half (39 per cent) of the patients were confident that their doctor was telling the truth, and only 38 per cent thought that their doctor knew what was wrong with them. Two-thirds of the patients, when they left the surgery, knew how they were to take the treatment prescribed, but only a third understood how the drugs were expected to work. Fewer than half were made aware of the likely course of their disease, and in only a quarter of the cases did

GPs discuss with the patients the options they considered before deciding on the recommended treatment.

Given these statistics, Bradley not unnaturally concluded that there was a communication gap between patients and general practitioners — and that patients have noticed it. Her studies show that what patients want most from a restructured GP service is easy access to a doctor who will listen, and who has the ability to explain medical problems to them in layman's language. Given a good doctor-patient relationship, patients are prepared to forgo the niceties and social conveniences of modern practice premises.

About nine years ago a pharmaceutical company carried out a survey similar to that done by the Consumers' Association: it found that given a choice, patients would

prefer to go to a two-doctor practice operating from a surgery near their home, staffed by a friendly secretary/receptionist — but they were not interested in ancillary staff, and they did not like to wait too long for an appointment. The company checked to see whether this preference could be shown to be of value medically by determining, through blood and urine tests, the proportion of patients from small and large practices who actually took the treatment prescribed by the doctor; the smaller, more intimate practice had the greatest proportion of patients who complied with instructions.

Inspired by parliamentary discussion and the introduction next year of the new general practice charter, 1989 has been a bumper year for reports on GPs. In April *Which?*, the Consumers' Association magazine, interviewed more than 900 patients. The survey showed that nine out of 10 wanted their GP to do more explaining to them, and considered longer consultations more important than shorter surgery queues.

Both men and women wanted more helpful receptionists, and women would have liked

more nurses in the practice.

Dr Colin Haigh Smith, a Kent GP, questioned 625 patients; 82 per cent said that the prime quality in a doctor was the ability to listen, and 72 per cent wanted the doctor to "sort out their problems". On the whole, the Kent patients were not particularly interested in surgery premises, health education or the ability to change doctors readily, although younger people did show a rather greater concern for health screening and the immunization programmes.

Perhaps the most dispiriting survey of all came from Dr Christopher Salisbury, of Reading. He found that six out of 10 patients go to the surgery nearest to their own house; eight out of 10 people change doctors only because they move; and only one patient in 20 leaves a doctor's list because of dissatisfaction.

Dr Alan Del Mar, with three other full-time doctors, looks after 10,000 patients in a Sussex practice. He recently wrote in *The Physician* that, while he acknowledged general practice was evolving and must change if it were to

survive, he felt that the appalling rigours of a medical education, coupled with the high academic standard demanded for entry into medical schools, produced a very well-qualified clinician who, although an articulate businessman, was socially inept, and found problems in communicating with his patients. As a result there was no small talk in a consultation, and conversation was limited to medical detail, so that even the patient's nervous little joke, which might have led to an important revelation, was stifled by the look from an eye taught only to recognize biochemical data, not to communicate.

Dr Martin Scurr is in private practice in Finchley, north-west London. He cares for 1,900 patients, a list size not dissimilar to one on the NHS, but even so he has time to talk and listen; indeed, he moved to the private sector precisely to have more time for each consultation. He believes, like Sir William Osler, arguably the founder of modern British medicine, that if a doctor listens long enough, the patient will give him the diagnosis. In the NHS he found that patients resented being referred quickly to the practice social worker or dietitian.

If Del Mar and Scurr are to some extent disillusioned by NHS practice, others are already adapting it to changing conditions. Dr Peter Toon works in London's East End with two other doctors, in a council-owned listed Georgian building. Two-and-a-half years ago he took over the practice from a well-known local character, Dr Norman Mendick, who had no secretary, no appointment system and no nurse; but no colleagues ever criticized his clinical judgement, and his patients loved him. There are now three doctors and six ancillary staff running the same practice, which operates on team lines; more clinical investigations are ordered, and it has grown from 2,400 to 3,600 patients. But Toon still provides as personal a service as possible. Either he or one of his partners is on duty each weekday night, and at week-

ends they share in a larger rota. His patients never seem to complain that he doesn't listen, he certainly visits them in hospital, and often telephones to inquire after their welfare while they are there.

Dr James Scrobie is a partner in a very different practice, in Barnes, south-west London, with eight partners, 14,000 patients and a staff of 24. He started in general practice 25 years ago, when the doctor was all-important, but today he sees his practice as a team affair, with the different members doing their own job but working together. He acknowledges that patients cannot always see the same doctor, and knows they do not like this, but says both sides are aware that it is the price to be paid for a higher standard of clinical medicine. He has noticed that when they are really ill, all they want is to get well quickly, and other considerations are forgotten.

Scrobie feels that some of the Consumers' Association questions gave a misleading picture of what patients want from general practice, because the survey was conducted among people who were well rather than patients who were ill. He agrees, however, that patients like to think their doctor always knows what is wrong with them, and therefore like to have a disease named, even if the diagnosis is only a translation of a symptom from English into a classical language; so if he tells a patient he has a sore throat it irritates him, but if he says he has pharyngitis, the patient is satisfied.

General practice will survive the new GPs' contract, but the politicians should take note that the public's view of what makes a good practice differs from the minister's. As far as possible, patients want to preserve the concept of having a family doctor, rather than having allegiance to a family practice managed by a team. The new contract may increase medical efficiency, but at the cost of making the doctor more remote.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

Defending the seasonal spirit

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

The crowds thronging the wine merchants have reminded me and my fellow authors of the book *Drinking to Your Health*, published this week, that it is more likely to be Christmas festivities than the words of a dozen academics and doctors, which have resulted in so much discussion on sensible drinking.

Readers of this column have always been told when some new research exposes the horrors of drinking too much alcohol regularly. But Medical Briefing has also been assiduous in pointing out good news when there is any. And there often is.

One reputable author, writing in the journal *Medicine* in 1986, collected 163 published research studies which showed clear-cut inverse association between alcohol consumption and heart disease. Other studies show that overall mortality is lower in patients who drink two to four alcohol units a day — a unit being a half pint of beer, a glass of wine, or a pub (not a home poured) hot of spirits. These are statistical facts.

In wishing to obscure such findings, the anti-alcohol lobby shows little regard for the interests of science or for the 90 per cent of men and 96 per cent of women who find alcohol a pleasant and — even by their standards — safe adjunct to life. There is evidence that small quantities of alcohol have a beneficial influence on the balance of the fats in the blood, thereby reducing the risk of heart disease.

As Dr John Duffy says in his chapter of the book, the idea of a single, safe threshold of consumption for everybody probably stems only from the natural desire of health educators to preach a simple message. Unfortunately, everybody is different. The speed, for example, at which

two people of equal size and small stature metabolize alcohol may differ by 25 per cent. The medical hierarchy have been tempted into giving a limit and have opted for 14 units a week for women and 21 units for men. In order to cater for all sorts, sizes and conditions they had to set the upper limit at a very low level, but in doing so they damage their credibility.

It is hard to believe that they really think they can persuade the general public that an average man (around 5ft 10in and weighing 12 stone) who has a glass of beer with a gin and tonic with his wife when he arrives home, is in dire danger of a coronary, opathy, polynuria, or cirrhosis. These are all diseases which, it has been suggested by some doctors this week, might follow the taking of four units of alcohol a day.

The book does not suggest that everybody should take three pints of beer a day to remain healthy, does not advocate a pint of lager a day as treatment for PMT, neither excuses nor condones drunkenness, heavy drinking, drink driving or larger lousiness. But it does point out the dangers of excessive consumption. Its theme is that the evidence for many of the allegations made about alcohol and its effect on health and society should be studied more dispassionately, and that the advantage of sensible drinking and its role in the social life of the country should not be discounted.

Success for the fertility dance



People watching the Frank Roush programme on Sky Television one night this week would have been amazed when a solemn discussion with Lord Ennals on the morality of the reparation of Vietnamese boat people was immediately followed by a strange fertility dance. There was an even bigger surprise in store when it was learnt that the masked dancers were from the Academic Unit of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the London Hospital; healers who had exchanged the surgical for the theatrical mask.

Reproductive physiology, the study of fertility, inevitably has a large, highly technical component, a component likely to increase as scientific knowledge grows. If IVF and GIFT ("test-tube babies") are likely to succeed, the infertile couple are necessarily subjected to a barrage of tests and examinations, most of which are embarrassing and some uncomfortable. In the wrong surroundings these could have a dehumanizing effect, thereby increasing tension at a time when relaxation is needed in order to give the best chance of conception.

Professor Gedes Grudzinski, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at the London Hospital, Professor Tim Chard, professor of reproductive physiology at St Bartholomew's Hospital, and Dr Robert Silman, a philosopher

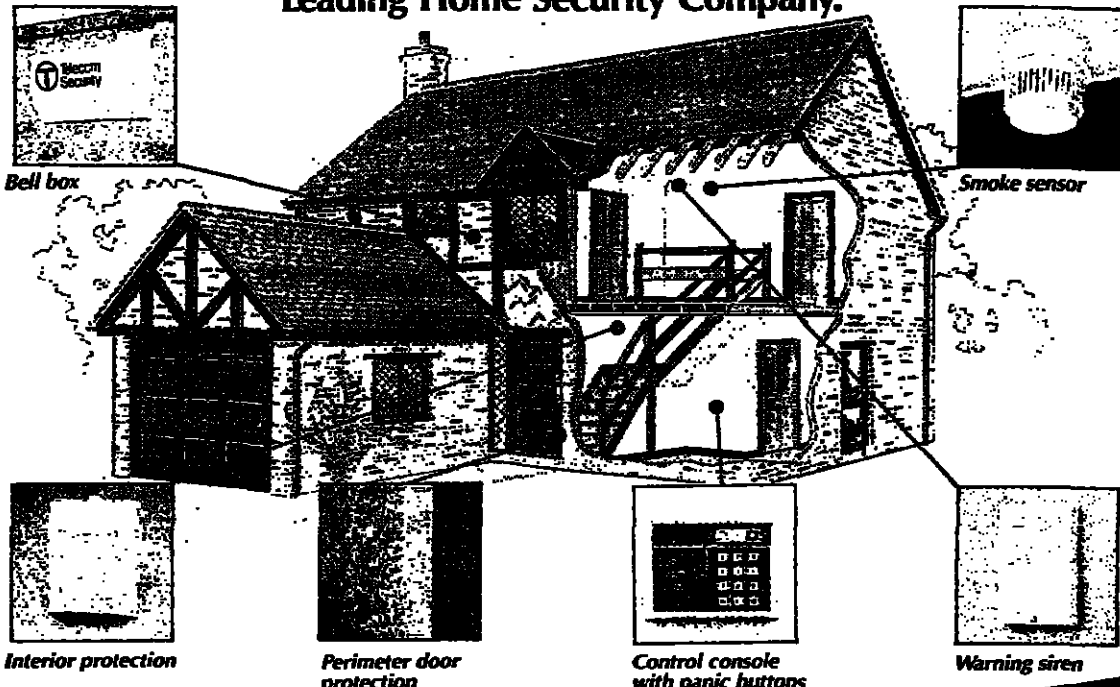
turned doctor who is senior lecturer in the department, have joined forces with Dr Sue Jennings and Patricia Losey. Jennings is not medically qualified but an anthropologist who, after writing her thesis for a PhD on shamanic healing and midwifery in the Temiar tribe in Malaysia, is now teaching drama therapy in London with Losey as a screen and script-writer. The dance and drama team attempts to reassure patients in the fertility clinics that they are not mere objects of scientific interest and that there is more to reproduction than temperatures and test tubes.

Before the days of Clomid and GIFT, the doctor only had relaxation and homely advice to offer as treatment for those finding it hard to conceive; the advice sometimes worked — conceptions on holiday, or after taking up an absorbing but not demanding hobby, or following the adoption of a child have all been noted frequently.

Jennings and her dancers teach the patients to dance and to relax and to act out their anxieties, hopes and sorrows. Just as a good holiday sometimes works, so does the dancing. Jennings is particularly proud of the successful pair of City workers, married for five years, who were desperate for a baby. They were so obsessed by the money market that they even brought individual telephones to their first dance session, but the women conceived as soon as she had learnt to relax. Dancing was enough.

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The feast Noël

In her final Countdown to Christmas column, Frances Bissell, *The Times* cook, has compiled a checklist covering ingredients, utensils and table decorations, to help cope with any last-minute festive chaos in the kitchen.

There are also plenty of hints and labour-saving suggestions that should give even the busiest cook time to relax, and make this December 25 a truly family affair. All the more reason not to miss *The Times* this, and every, Saturday.

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THE ARTS

No easy lessons

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

Looking like a downmarket touring team from *Capital City*, a group of economists from the Adam Smith Institute and elsewhere recently arrived in Poland to convince the locals that stock-market capitalism is not so bad as, say, spending several decades in a Soviet jail or having your little fingers chopped off by itinerant Russian soldiers.

Telling the story of the British in Warsaw, John Bridcut's *Dispatches* film for Channel 4 last night had several elements of black farce, and might have looked better if written by Tom Stoppard in his *Professional Fool* mood, or filmed by Wajda around the time of *Ashes and Diamonds*.

It would appear, however, that *Solidarity* is in for a rough ride to the free market with milk prices having multiplied seven times during one night, the new Minister for Ownership Changes has been given a staff of 10 and about six months to put half a century of communism into reverse.

Bridcut's film was extremely well-made and about almost nothing: a conference is a conference, and after the empty bottles of mineral water and the guy in the sharp suit patronizingly announcing that if even Jamaica had managed a stock market then surely Poland could do likewise, there is not much else to shoot.

This must have been about the only Polish documentary of recent times without a leading part for Lech Walesa, but his role was understated by the newly-appointed Ownership Changes Minister, who disarmingly explained that one of his many problems in trying now to flog off his nation's assets to private ownership would be trying to work out who were the private owners from whom they had been stolen in the first place.

The itinerant economists proved characteristically chauvinist and charmless, apparently unable to grasp the irony of a city opening a casino and several soup kitchens on the same night, and we finished, as usual, with Dr Madison Pirie of the Adam Smith Institute talking very slowly, as to backward children, about free enterprise.

Not many women were seen, except for the occasional chambermaid and one government official murmuring with understandable unease about milk prices, and there was a desperate lack of urgency or focus, as though trying to teach Poles about stock markets was as doomed a project as trying to teach the British about zlotys.

Diane Hill on how the European Theatre Convention's first festival, in St-Etienne, France, reflected the political and social changes now taking place across Europe

Curtains down and up

The Iron Curtain rose with unexpected impetus in St-Etienne, in eastern France, the venue of the European Theatre Convention's first festival. Of the 15 companies taking part in this week of frontier-tumbling theatrical, cultural and linguistic cross-fertilization, three came from the Eastern bloc. Invited when there was hardly a chink in the Wall, their participation invested the already lively festival with an unforeseen *frisson*.

Ripples of new-found, uninhibited high spirits ran through an ebullient Vakhtangov Theatre (a breakaway from the Moscow Arts Theatre) production of *Zoika's Apartment*, a comedy with music, directed by Gari Chernakovsky. Written by Mikhail Bulgakov in 1925, the play acts out the agitated Soviet history of the time, with its obvious parallel today. It was banned in 1926, but has been running in Moscow since its revival by the Vakhtangov in 1987.

Zoika's apartment is officially a workshop for the proletariat, but in reality a house of easy virtue where girls, not garments, are available off the peg. Social and political metaphors are amusingly woven into this pleasingly naïve scenario. Chernakovsky leaves the original Twenties flavour virtually intact, which serves to keep the work at a prudent distance from today's turbulences, but the *joie de vivre* of the young cast carries one along on a wave of *perestroika*.

Brecht's *Threepenny Opera* acquires a thickly-grained patina of despair in the Warsaw Art Theatre's production directed by Jerzy Grzegorzewski, whose avant-garde and surrealist style finds fertile soil. Grzegorzewski slightly shuffles the dramatic tableaux, creating a disturbing refraction in the sequence of events. Any semblance of joy is replaced by a smouldering hopelessness, a reined-in aggression which breaks out in ritualistic, grotesque dances, repeated gestures and unnerving cameo performances.

Hungarian director Zsombi Gabor strips Jerry's *Ubu Roi* of the burlesque trappings it has acquired in recent years to reveal a work of ferocity and contemporary pertinence. Powerfully performed by Hungary's Jozsef Katona Theatre, which richly deserves its international reputation.



Winning ovations: Josette Bushell Mingo (left) and Attie Kubyane of Temba Theatre, in *Wozz! Albert*

it reaches out into the audience and defies one to remain unmoved.

A whole string of repressions, past and present, finds allegorical expression in *Pecora*, or *The Mystery of the Passion of Saint Melania*, directed by Joao Mota, founder in 1972 of the Comuna theatre. An outspoken co-operative, Comuna survives the rigours of censorship thanks mainly to subsidy from the Gulbenkian Foundation.

Given its world premiere at Saint-Etienne, *Pecora* (the archaic word means both a sow and a woman of sullied virtue) is drawn from a text by the contemporary Portuguese writer Natalia Correia. From the lusty kick-off of an unholy communion between Melania and a priest, which is deftly converted into a miraculous vision by an angel, the play thunders its way through the gullibility of the masses, the inadequacies of the state, the hypocrisy of the church and the corruptibility of business.

There is plenty to make the hackles rise, decked-out with a fair showing of nipples and a generous helping of brothel scenes. Mota presents this steamy package on a dirt-strewn acting arena enclosed in a white marquee. Although his timeworn theatrical mechanisms

and simplistic imagery do not stand up to close critical scrutiny, reservations are swept away by the sheer physical presence of the performers.

By comparison, a production of Jean Genet's brothel-based social manifesto, *Le Balcon*, is a tame affair. Impeccably mounted by Belgium's French National Theatre, competently directed by Franz Marjnen with a polished cast, its cold sterility emasculates Genet's obsession with ritual, worship of evil, desecration of power. However, Flemish-born Marjnen adds some good local colour by turning Genet's royal puppet figure into a look-and-sound-alike of the Belgian Queen.

Under the banner of London's Lyric Hammersmith, the Temba Theatre Company, with *Wozz! Albert*, was playing in France for the first time. The nightly 10-minute standing ovation would have been longer had the public been aware that, days before, the company was without a replacement for Ewen Cummins, who left the show to make a film. Josette Bushell Mingo stepped out of the Temba ranks, and the role of Zulu boy became Zulu girl. This unexpected sex-change was imperceptible to

anyone who did not know the play, and offered a fascinating new idea of the work to those who did. West Germany's heavyweight participation included an adaptation of Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape*, directed by Klaus Michael Gruber, with the illustrious Bernard Minetti. An interesting quirk of this disappointing joint production by the Berlin Schiller and the Frankfurt Schauspiel is that Minetti's taped voice was recorded 28 years ago.

Daniel Benoin, artistic director of Saint-Etienne's impressive municipal theatre complex, is the prime-mover behind the ETC, which was set up in 1983 in collaboration with the Schiller Theatre and the French National Theatre in Brussels. Benoin joined forces with the Belgian group and the KNS of Antwerp for a bilingual production of Buchner's *Woyzeck*. Directed and newly adapted by Benoin, the proletarian speak Flemish among themselves, and switch to French when they come into contact with authority.

A fine production, it forcefully emphasizes the aims of the ETC, which are to facilitate artistic and technical exchanges between the member theatres and to encourage multi-national joint productions. Next year's festival is to be held in Bologna.

Frisson and friction

CONCERTS

Richard Morrison

Philharmonia/
Svetlanov
Festival Hall

There was the smack of the good breakfast: cereal about this programme. Brahms and Beethoven, played by the Philharmonia: very solid and nourishing; nothing too spicy. What gave it a *frisson* of danger was the presence of Yevgeny Svetlanov, the 61-year-old Russian conductor whose vast ability is as undeniable as his performances are unpredictable. Svetlanov conducting Rimsky-Korsakov or Borodin is a brush but thrilling experience, without rival. Svetlanov conducting Beethoven's Fifth Symphony is tamer but possibly more interesting: one suspects his mind is engaged more than his heart, but it is all put together with great skill. Admittedly, he skated blandly through the *Andante*, as though regretting the fact that he was conducting a tune that would not even have made it into the reserves for *Sheherazade*. However, his handling of the first movement's massive piling up of sonorities was gripping, and the big moments for cellos and basses in the Scherzo were satisfyingly beefy, if old-fashioned.

Svetlanov surprised nobody by favouring a big, romantic variety of expression, but only the occasionally over-pressed crescendo in the first movement seemed too indulgent. It was a pity, though, that throughout this movement he never quite obtained the rhythmic unanimity which the ubiquitous motto-theme needs.

Earlier, in Brahms's First Piano Concerto, the ensemble had been even slacker, particularly in the huge first movement where it often sounded as if the soloist, Peter Donohoe, had markedly different views in speed and phrasing. Still, in this turbulent epic a little musical friction between soloist and conductor merely adds another dimension to the mood of conflict. Donohoe was not in his tidiest form, though the explosion of double-octaves in the first movement was majestically sustained. But his dark, powerful interpretation — with scarcely a moment of repose — was entirely convincing.

John Higgins

Candide
Barbican Hall

Part of the problem with *Candide* was the book, not the one by Voltaire but those by Lillian Hellman and the many tinkering hands which came afterwards. The simple solution for the two concert performances at the Barbican (the second is tonight) conducted by the composer, Leonard Bernstein, is to ditch it.

Bernstein gives a brief background in a gravely flaccid voice before launching into the most brilliant overture he ever wrote. He pays a delicate tribute to Hellman before Act II, adds the odd interjection, but otherwise leaves the narrative to his singers, especially to Dr Pangloss in the shape of Adolph Green — one of the few major lyricists who did not contribute to *Candide*.

It is a device which may be a bit showbizzy, but then *Candide* was ever showbizzy in its glitter, its parodies and its ultimate sentimentality. And it works uncommonly well.

Bernstein, with the LSO in front of him and a roster of stars by his side — *Candide* goes directly onto compact disc and video — is still much in love with his troublesome child. He galvanizes the LSO in the big set pieces in dance rhythm, the "Paris Waltz" and the "Venice Gavotte".

Noël Goodwin

LS Voices/Edwards
Queen Elizabeth Hall

In a programme mostly for six voices unaccompanied, a diversity in the musical treatment of texts to be sung raised questions of what kind of balance a composer seeks between sense and sensibility. The versatile, indeed virtuosic sextet of three women and three men who make up London Sinfonietta Voices seem primed to search out a poetic verbal content whenever possible, but not at the expense of differing musical purposes.

Between Jonathan Lloyd at the start of the programme and Benjamin Britten at the end, the singers brought two works new to us from their recent appearance at the Donaueschingen Festival. Where Britten turned back to medieval English lyrics for his flexibly expressive contrasts of *Sacred and Profane*, composed the year before he died, the young Michael Obst from Frankfurt has gone to medieval High French for his *Miroirs*.

But not the courtly serenades you might expect. Instead, the

social concerns of their time verified by different hands, which Obst has put into what he calls "floating metrics", with frequent time-changes, church-derived harmonies and a pervading and stimulating spirit of folk dancing. Each individual voice is given splendidly vital phrasing to make the most of its natural compass, and the effect in performance was brightly appealing.

I thought this better crafted than *Nachtschleife* by Johannes Kalitzke, who has bound together verses of more recent provenance in German, English and Spanish to furnish a new form of madrigal. To various methods of voice projection he calls for a thumping of the singer's chest from time to time as an extra rhythmic variant; but, in spite of some delicately poised notation, the words are allowed to submerge in layered harmonic colours.

Directed as necessary by the bass singer, Terry Edwards, the consort of voices excelled in the subtle syllabic placing and sometimes dramatic *flourish* of Jonathan Lloyd's pocket-size *Mass* of 1983, which I would now like to hear in a church acoustic.

Funny fountain of falsehoods

As a fool, coward, or villain, the liar is a standard figure in classical drama; but what happens if he is endowed instead with the courage, sex appeal, and intelligence of a romantic hero? That question is the starting point of Corneille's comedy, now launched into the English repertoire in a brilliantly funny translation by Ranjit Bolt, directed by Jonathan Miller.

Dorante is a provincial law student, just arrived in Paris, and the first image we get of him, in swaggering cavalier kit brandishing a rapier, is already a lie. His motives are blamelessly conventional: simply to marry the girl of his choice. His methods would instantly disqualify any lover in a conventional play.

On sighting Clarice, he is at once aware into tall tales of his body-count on the German battlefield. Threatened with marriage by his father, he invents a wife in Pointiers, developing a thrillingly circumstantial story of hiding in the girl's bed and being detected when his watch chimed and his pistol went off. The only person not taken in is his valet.

THEATRE

Irving Wardle

The Liar
Old Vic

Corneille took his plot from a Spanish source, and you can imagine Dorante as a Spanish immortal, a mendacious Don Juan attended by a Leporello who makes lists of the truths rather than the girls his master has violated. As Corneille plays it, though, the intrigue rather invokes admiration for lying as an artistic skill, and delivers retribution on grounds of artistic deficiency.

Dorante is an incomparable improviser, but he has a lousy memory, and so is trapped into marrying the wrong girl by getting their names mixed up.

Miller takes pity on him by casting Christine Kavanagh, a mistress of the predatory narrow-eyed eye, as Clarice; Dorante is lucky to escape her.

The production is played on a

set, by Peter J. Davison, where truth and illusion are reflected in the contrast between solid-seeming architecture and its flimsily theatrical reverse side. It is beautifully poised between the formal and the casual: thus meshing perfectly with the Bolt text, in which unwanted lovers are dismissed as "drips" and jealous rivals paint themselves into corners, all in impeccably chiming iambic couplets.

"Moi, moi" sounds imitate the smack of kisses; the girls wheel on in hooped skirts, distancing themselves from forward admirers like floating bells; and the duel between Dorante and his buffoonish rival (Simon Dornandy) develops into balletic farce.

Alex Jennings's Dorante certainly ranks as the show's star turn; but only as one half of a wonderful double act with Desmond Barri's Cliton. It is a partnership between a fast, witty adolescent, brimming with *chutzpah* but still in the process of finding himself, and a bulging pudding-faced Welsh maul, who knows something about the world. Jennings's voice is forever slipping into alternative identities, with the inflexions of saloon-bar con-men, public-school car-dealers, and the middle-managerial seducer with a bottle of gin in his bottom drawer. Very funny; but twice as funny with Barri waddling after him.



Breaking the news: Toyah Wilcox plays a radio disc-jockey in *Whale*

Jeremy Kingston

Whale
Lyttelton

Up from three stage traps representing blow-holes on the frozen sea north of Alaska, and accompanied by mesmerizingly odd music, like the sound of bubbles bursting against a musical saw, three grey whales soar into the air. Of course they are actors, but, seated in their skin-tight silver leotards, they have the stiff and simple elegance of creatures supporting some exquisite art deco lamp. They are magical. And because in another instant they

have sunk back out of sight, they leave a vivid after-image on the now vacant air. I can see them still, suspended in the space above the other actors, the ice-cutting limbo, the Americans and Soviet sailors, working together to free a channel to the open sea.

The attempt to rescue the three trapped whales caught the popular imagination last year and forms the major part of David Holman's beautifully original children's show. From the first report broadcast by an initially bored radio disc-jockey (Toyah Wilcox) we see oil executives in Florida and inventors in Minneapolis drawn into the story until eventually President Reagan himself — alas not seen — puts through a call to his opposite number and the back gauge rises on the ice-breaker Admiral Makarov, draped in red flags, her crew aloft singing "The Internationale".

Some connecting links in the story are not clear, but this hardly matters, since there is always something to engage the eye in Ashley Martin-Davis's satiny white set. Tim Supple's direction hurries the civilian sections of the play along in a straightforward manner, but his imagination soars when the story returns to Alaska, where the whales are weakening, and to the mysterious Inuit legend relating the birth of the first whales. The legend brings on the character of Sedna (Suzette Llewellyn), a once-human maid, and the Raven whose misplaced love has caused her to dwell on the sea bed.

This Raven is the other magical marvel of the show. Sparingly garbed in shiny black feathers, Emil Walk hops, sidesteps and jauntily bobs his plumed head, whispering into human ears to encourage their efforts (I should like to have seen him in the White House) and capering above the stage in the most breathtaking aerial manoeuvres I have ever seen in a theatre. Sometimes he hangs on the end of a rope by one hand. He is the presiding genius of this ecologically admirable occasion: graceful, tough and unforgettable.

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ENO

THE ARTS/FILM

The film of the week, *The Dream Team*, is a touching comedy on mental illness

Laughing with, not at

CINEMA

David Robinson

Mental illness might not seem a particularly comfortable subject for comedy, but *The Dream Team* (15, Plaza, Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue), directed by Howard Zieff, is warm, positive and skilful in avoiding any offence.

It might be called *Four Fell Out of the Cuckoo's Nest*. The ingenious script by Jon Connolly and David Loucka has an enlightened psychiatrist deciding to take his pet group of patients to a baseball game. They are a representative bunch of common or garden crazies: an ace advertising man who thinks he is Jesus; a former public servant with a pathological terror of disorder and an authoritarian instinct (he dresses up in doctor's coat and marches around with a clipboard); a compulsive fantasist with a nasty streak of violence and a near-catatonic who can only blurt out phrases snatched from television baseball commentaries.

When the psychiatrist witnesses a murder and is wounded by the fleeing killers, his four charges are left on the loose in Manhattan. The shock of getting themselves out of trouble and rescuing their doctor from the killers proves remarkably therapeutic. It is a fantasy, of course, but generous and optimistic.

Each of the four comedy performances in turn upstages the rest, each demanding affection for the character and respect for his kinks. Michael Keaton's sickness is a heightened cunning in embroidering his lies, manipulating the

France's biggest recent box office hit has been *The Bear and the Dolphins*. The script of *Roselyne and the Lions* (12, Curzon West End), written in collaboration with Jacques Forgeas, is an unsophisticated affair, reverting to an 80-year tradition of sawdust-ring movies and running away with the circus children's stories.

Two pleasant teenagers (Isabelle Pasco and Gérard Sandoz) meet while taking lion-taming lessons in Marseilles zoo. They fall in love and elope, travelling France looking for the big-time break. It comes when they get work with a circus in Munich – a bizarre world of crazed Technic efficiency peopled by monsters and neurotics from old German horror films.

The film is remarkable in that no doubts are employed: the two young actors spent a year learning to handle animals and do the cage work themselves. It is enjoyable to watch them; and the actuality of their wary relations with the beast, and moments of communicated nervousness between them have an excitement.

At the same time it handicaps the film. The cage scenes were evidently so central to the work that they have been allowed to



Persuasive: Michael Keaton as a compulsive liar and Christopher Lloyd, an authoritarian maniac, in jail

others, and using his own dangerous side to advantage. Christopher Lloyd is a maddening maniac, obsessed with cleaning up every speck of dirt and impugning everyone else.

Peter Boyle's religious fervour goes with an exhibitionist streak which reaches crisis point during a black gospel meeting. The consequences when he authoritatively commands a hospital patient to take up his bed and walk provide a gag not unworthy of Buñuel.

Stephen Furst's poor fat speechless slob holds his own alongside his more glibulous team-mates. The thriller structure relies on the well-tried Hitchcock formula of having the heroes handicapped in their pursuit of the villains by being under suspicion themselves and on the run from the police.

The comedy, though, is firmly based on the characters' pathological eccentricities, which we come to respect and to an extent comprehend.

The charm of *The Dream Team* is that it presents a world quite upside down, where the police are criminals, the mad become the defenders of order, and psychiatrists – when their patients change places with them – appear as a lot more in need of care than their charges. Like the best comedy, it obliges its audience to question accepted values.

It is certainly the best Christmas entertainment on offer in the cinemas.

Excitement caged

dominate the film, and become tediously repetitive (the film hardly justifies its 130-minute length in any case).

Moreover, Beneix clearly wanted to emulate the other animal films in building an aura of mysticism in the relations of humans and animals. But the down-to-earth reality of the animals and the actors' concentration in working with the beasts defeats this. Certainly all idea of the mythical is defeated by the kitschy finale intended as the apotheosis of Roselyne as queen of the beasts.

The German scenes, reflecting naive Gothic prejudices, often touch absurdity, with Wolf Harisch as a Mephistophelean impresario and Gunter Meisner as a demented trainer.

For the children there is the first new Disney cartoon feature since *The Great Mouse Detective*. *Oliver and Company* (U Odéon West End) is remotely inspired by *Oliver Twist*. Oliver, a kitten abandoned on the streets of New York, falls in with a gang of thieving dogs managed by the two-legged Fagin. He is taken in by a little rich girl and the gang rescue this benefactress when she is kidnapped by Sykes, Fagin's mob-

ster boss. Some trace of the old craft standards that distinguished the Disney studios from the rest remains in the animation and anthropomorphic characterizations that combine carefully studied animal movement with witty human archetypes. Young and non-American children may not fully appreciate the New York characters voiced by such artists as Bette Midler as the pampered poodle star Georgette, Billy Joel as the stridently managed Dodger, Cheech Marin as the chihuahua Tito and Dom DeLuise as the ingratiating Fagin.

More Dickensian waits figure in *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*, adapted from a novel by Joan Aiken and a very cheerful offering for juvenile Christmas entertainment. It takes place in an 1830-ish Gothic horror country-side: a bleak mansion stands in snow-covered moors, where wolves prowl in wait for undefended travellers.

The careless proprietors of the Chase leave their little daughter and her friend in the care of the evil governess Slighcarp (Stephanie Beacham). Slighcarp and her accomplices, the forger Grimshaw (Mel Smith) and the orphanage

mistress Mrs Bricket (Geraldine James), plot to do away with the girls and their parents in order to steal the estate. The unrelieved chronicle of cruelties culminates in an awful steam laundry where orphans are enslaved; and only ends when the villains themselves get their deserts, either eaten by wolves or crushed in a giant mangle.

This directorial debut by Stuart Orme looks like the stuff of which children's nightmares are made; but at least the nightmares will be well decorated. Christopher Hobbs (Derek Jarman's designer on *Caravaggio*), using locations in Czechoslovakia and the resources of the art department of the Barrandov Studios in Prague, has created a vivid fantasy world where Gothic horror meets the trains, steam carriages and machinery of the burgeoning industrial revolution.

The wolves are unleashed at last

Peter Guttridge talks to Joan Aiken, whose book hits the screens this week



Terror: Miss Slighcarp (Stephanie Beacham) in care of her charges

then her husband fell ill and she put it aside. Her husband died and it was seven years before she went back to the book. "But I finished it as if there had been no gap."

Aiken has remarried and now spends four months a year in Greenwich Village, while her husband teaches in New York. The rest of the year she lives in Sussex. She was born in Rye, the daughter of New England author Conrad Aiken. Writing is something of a family habit – her sister writes historical novels and her brother writes mysteries and science-fiction.

She has lived off her writing since the success of *Wolves*. Formidably prolific, she has published more than 60 children's books and 20 for adults. At 65 she shows no sign of slowing down. "I feel very miserable if I don't write," she says. "I'm never short of ideas – though the energy is sometimes lacking."

But she can produce it when necessary. One of her children's books, *The Shadow Guests*, was written in a month. "There was a slot in the summer lists for Jonathan Cape and they needed it

quickly," she says. "I rather liked the experience. Doing it fast gave the book a sort of coherence."

Her most recent work, a collection of ghost stories, was published in October and she is working on a "grown-up" novel. She doesn't feel she adapts her writing for children and adults. "There is no conscious difference. The only difference I can see is that children's books have happier endings than those for adults."

She likes the idea of movie magic working on some of her other novels. "*Wolves* has five or six sequels which are actually better. They would be expensive to film, however – they feature balloons, volcanoes and shipwrecks." One of her adult books, *Died on a Rainy Sunday*, has been filmed in France and another children's story, *Midnight is a Place*, was adapted for television.

One aspect of the transfer of the story from page to screen amuses her. "In films, children are always older than you write them. It isn't so noticeable in *Wolves* but in *Midnight is a Place* it was taken to an extreme. The six-year-old heroine was played by a 16-year-old."

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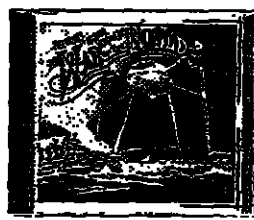
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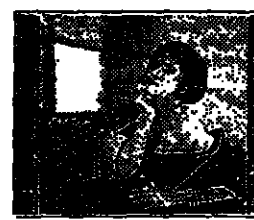
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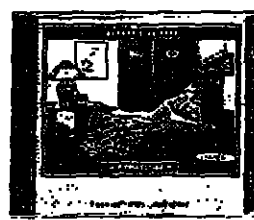
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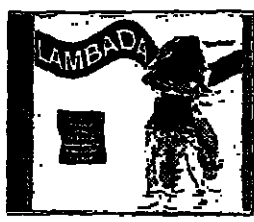
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WOOLWORTHS

(An advertisement for Woolworths)

Puttnam focuses on Ealing

The studio bug has bitten David Puttnam again. It's not Hollywood calling – a year as head of Columbia cured him of that. Puttnam has set his sights on the cradle of British cinema, Ealing Studios.

Puttnam, chairman of the National School of Film and Television which is rapidly outgrowing its facilities at Beaconsfield feels Ealing would be an ideal site "in five or six years' time".

Ealing Studios is owned by the BBC, which uses it to film large-scale dramas such as *Blackeyes*, *Motherlove*, and *The Chronicles of Narnia* and plans to keep the facility for at least five years. "Five years is a long time in the life of any BBC facility apart from Television Centre," says Walt Denning, head of film production resources, who has talked with Puttnam about locating some non-production courses at Ealing. "But I did notice a twinkle in his eye when we talked about the studio."

The twinkle was also noticeable



David Puttnam: wider horizons

when Puttnam spoke at the Ealing Film Festival last week. Puttnam envisages not only the National Film and Television School at Ealing, but also, looking beyond 1992, a European post-graduate film school, reasoning that English will continue to be the dominant language for the world film market and if the European

film industry is to be competitive, the post-graduate centre must be in England.

Puttnam recalls the productive years of Michael Balcon, Ealing Studios' founder, who produced many of the classic Ealing films. In 1949 alone Balcon produced *Passport to Pimlico*, *Whisky Galore*, and *Kind Hearts and Coronets*. Puttnam would like to recapture some of that momentum for the national school. Balcon long ago told Puttnam that British cinema needed a community of film makers and advised him, Ridley Scott, Alan Parker and Hugh Hudson "to stick together" in Britain.

Balcon had to close Ealing Studios in 1957 for want of £300,000. "He had hopes for Ealing Studios and for British cinema that were never fulfilled," says Puttnam. By moving the National School of Film and Television to Ealing, it seems, Puttnam would try to fulfil them.

George Dorgan

VIDEO BOX

Geoff Brown

AN AMERICAN TALE (CIC, U): The cartoon adventures of Fievel Mousekewitz, an immigrant mouse in New York. Some pleasantly old-fashioned animation (from former Disney artists), but the storyline is distinctly cheesy. Steven Spielberg's first animation venture, 1987.

ANNA KARENINA (Parkfield, PG): In which Count Tolstoy gets the glossy TV movie treatment, acquiescing Glaston's acting skills are not to be pooh-poohed, though placed alongside Paul Scofield's commanding Karenin she withers into insignificance. With Christopher Reeve directed by Simon Langton, 1985.

FRIGHT NIGHT PART 2 (CBS/Fox, 15): Lame sequel to the lively 1985 vampire romp, with William Baskette and Roddy McDowall reunited in the fight against fangs. Tommy Lee Wallace directs; Julie Carmen is the alluring lady vampire, 1989.

HOMESBOY (Braveworld, 15): Very much Mickey Rourke's personal project: he wrote the story and stars as a burnt-out boxer sucked into crime by a petty thief (Christopher Walken). Stravinsky, hollow, heavily directed by cameraman Michael Seresin, 1988.

KENTUCKY FRIED MOVIE (Entertainment in Video, 18): Disposable, rapid-fire media parodies directed in 1977 by John Landis, penned by the future creators of *Airplane!* (then with the stage troupe Kentucky Fried Theatre). Wildly uneven and strident: a Bruce Lee parody comes off best.

OSCAR WINNERS (Channel 5): Three diverse Oscar-winners bundled into a boxed set aimed at the Christmas stockings of those With Taste: the Merchant-Ivory team's elegant distillation of E.M. Forster's *A Room With a View* (1986, PG); *The Lion in Winter* (1968, 15) – the theatrical gab-fest with Peter O'Toole and Katharine Hepburn as Henry II and wife squabbling away on Christmas Eve; most desirable of all, the deliciously sly *Prizzi's Honor* (1985, 15), with Jack Nicholson and

Kathleen Turner as hired killers falling in love.

PELLE THE CONQUEROR (Braveworld, 15): Billie August's prize-winning, unsentimental account of an impoverished young boy and his father surviving on a turn-of-the-century Danish farm. A magisterial performance by Max von Sydow as the father cowed by fate and old age; fine work, too, by young Pelle Hvenegaard as the wide-eyed lad, 1988.

THE RETURN OF THE MUSKETEERS (Entertainment in Video, PG): Not a return we have been clamouring for, but here they are – Michael York, Oliver Reed and company – entangled in more of director Richard Lester's slapstick ballets. Lushwork stuff; Roy Kinnear's death during production could not have helped, 1988.

WITHOUT A CLUE (Virgin, PG): Spoof comic treatment of the Holmes and Watson saga: Watson (Ben Kingsley) is now the brains of the outfit, while Holmes (Michael Caine) is a bumbling, doltish actor hired to impersonate the mythical hero. Tedious; almost, in fact, *Without a Laugh*, 1989.

TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Gillian MaxeyAmbridge
with the
lid off

Peter Waymark

Since radio plays so heavily on the imagination, devotees of *The Archers* may have mixed feelings about 40 Minutes (BBC2, 9.30pm), which marks the 10,000th edition of the world's longest running soap opera. While enjoying Jonathan Gili's affectionate insight into a national institution, they may feel that too many illusions are being shattered. They may be taken aback to see that the real Granny Perkins is not a raucous old crone but a genial and nicely spoken actress called Pauline Seville. They may be disappointed, as one fan was, that "Shula" has grey hair. Against that, the members of the Eddie Grundy fan club are clearly happy to mix their fantasies with the flesh and blood actor who plays him. Appearing in the show must be a serious experience. It seems like a job for life but contracts are

Celebrating their 10,000th edition: the cast of *The Archers* (BBC2, 9.30pm)

only awarded from episode to episode and, as "Brian Aldridge" hilariously demonstrates, the scriptwriters can always cut you down with an epileptic fit. One of the writers is revealed as a former tax inspector with no background in agriculture. The film has nothing to say about the size or composition of the audience. The impression is of a mainly middle-aged and elderly following, though this may be misleading. Certainly there can be few more traditional fans than the venerable Professor C. M. Hughes-Jones, who accuses the BBC of anti-idealism by running the Omnibus edition on Sunday mornings when it clashes with church services. The professor also contests the claim of *The Archers* to be a story of country folk. He says it might as well be taking place in Surbiton. ● True Stories (Channel 4, 10.00pm) presents *Sid's Children*, the latest in a series of documentaries by Nick Gifford about a West Indian immigrant, Sid Williams, and his family in Bristol. The first film was made in 1972, when Sid was married with six young children. The sequel showed Sid bringing up the family after his wife's death in a fire. In this latest documentary Sid is a grandfather, living alone and in poor health, though still close to his offspring. Gifford's quality as a film-maker is sympathy without sentimentality. His camera is there to observe rather than to judge. The story of Sid could easily have become a political tract about exploited blacks. But, for Gifford, humanity is more interesting than propaganda.

BBC 1

- 6.05 The Flintstones in Indian Rockies 500 (r)
6.30 Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Kirsty Wark. Includes news headlines every 15 minutes; and regular sports bulletins, weather, regional news and travel; and a review of the morning newspapers by Paul Gifford 6.55 Regional news and weather
9.00 News and weather followed by Open Air with Eamonn Holmes and Jayne Irving. To contribute ring 061 814 0424
9.20 Robert Kilroy-Glik chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject
10.00 News and weather followed by Going for Gold (r)
10.25 Chances of BBC presented by Simon Parkin, begins with Playbus at the Patch Stop
10.50 The Family News. Cartoon series 10.55 Five the Eleven. Peter Tuddenham with a reading
11.00 News and weather followed by Open Air with Eamonn Holmes, Jayne Irving and roving reporter Roy Shepherd
12.00 News and weather followed by Daytime Live. Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Sifers are joined by healthy living expert Diana Moran 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather
1.30 Banner. Animated tales from her sister's, eager to hear all the news; Gail and Paul are both off with "lu; Des tells Mike he is feeling down about Penelope; and Beverly is distressed by a newspaper report (CeeFax) 1.50 Going for Gold. Henry Kelly hosts another round of the European chess show
2.15 Film: Dangerous Company (1992), starring Beau Bridges and Carlos Brown. Extraordinary drama based on the true story of the rehabilitation of Ray Johnson, who was sentenced to 27 years imprisonment after a month of committing crimes. Directed by Lamont Johnson
3.50 Banner. Animated tales (r) 4.00 Ovide. Cartoon series (r) 4.10 Lassie 4.35 Maid Marian and Her Merry Men. Comedy serial written and starring Tony
5.00 Newsround 5.05 Blue Peter presented by Yvette Fielding, Caron Keating and John Leslie (CeeFax)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (CeeFax)
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather
6.30 Newsround South East
7.00 Top of the Pops presented by Nick Campbell. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1
7.30 Eastenders. Doctor Legg talks to Arthur about Pauline's condition and visits her in hospital; and Marge seems to have met the man of her dreams in Clacton. (CeeFax)
8.00 Blatney Blank. Lee Dawson's guests this week are Lorraine Chase, Bernard Cribbins, Christopher Biggins, Vivien Stuart, Philip Schofield and Barbara Windsor. (CeeFax)
8.30 Victoria Wood: Val de Rea. Victoria and her friend head for the Yorkshire Dales, but when the chocolate supplies run out, the weather turns sour and the tent refuses to stay up, the sight of a Youth Hostel looks very inviting. With Celia Imrie and Joan Sims. (CeeFax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Regional news and weather
9.30 Smith and Jones: The Untouchable Version. Includes a sketch about an unemployed northern changing places with a suburban cow called Daisy; and another episode of *Olympus*. With Chris Langham and Miranda Richardson. (CeeFax)
10.00 Question Time of the Decade. In the first programme of the year Peter Sissons is joined up with the GreenWood Theatre in London by the Deputy Prime Minister, Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP, former Labour Chancellor Denis Healey, David Owen MP, and Sara Parkin, co-secretary of the European Greens
11.15 International Show Jumping. David Vine introduces the first day of the traditional Pre-Christmas international event from Olympia, Virginia. Lina, Lorna, Clark, Ian Stark and John Thelwell compete for Great Britain. Raymond Brooks-Ward and Stephen Healey are the commentators. This year the event is in aid of the RNIB
12.25am Weather

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am begins with News and Good Morning Britain presented by Richard Keys and, from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Elaine Kelly. Includes news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. After news presented by Kathy Taylor includes Claire Rayner with her problem pot bag
9.25 Born Lucky. World game with Jeremy Beadle 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time... The Place... Mike Scott chairs a discussion on a topical subject
10.40 This Morning. Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes items from a doctor, Chris Steele; toys and play; and Anna Soubry with the latest developments in the soaps. Plus national and international news at 10.55 and regional news
11.55 Followed by national weather
12.10 The Riddlers. For the young
12.30 Home and Away. Roo and Bobby tell their tales at the annual school play; Carly's date, Matt Wilson, confesses that he is really very fond of her; and who will win the Most Popular Student award
1.00 News at One with John Suchet. Weather 1.20 Thames News and weather
1.30 This Your Life (r) 2.00 A This is Your Life. Australian medical drama set in a small outback town
2.00 Give Us a Clue hosted by Michael Parkinson. Joining the team captains Liz Goddard and Debbie Blair are Cheryl Baker, Henry McGee, Barbara Murray, Robin Newell, Andrew O'Connor and Janine Wood. 2.25 Thames News and weather
3.20 Sons and Daughters
4.00 Dogtanian and the Three Muskehounds. Animated adventures (r) 4.20 Woolf Comic series about a young man who changes into a dog when he least expects it (Oracle) 4.55 Scooby Doo. Cartoon adventures (r)
5.10 Home and Away (r)
5.40 News with Trevor McDonald. Weather 5.55 Thames News and weather
6.20 Thames Help. Jackie Sprackley looks at the social fund and severe weather payments
6.30 Emmerdale. Amos is surprised to find that he is being interviewed for a job; and Joe and Kate are forced into a confrontation
7.00 After Henry: Working Belle. Eleanor is determined that there should be a family wedding. Starring Prunella Scales and Joan Sanderson (r)
7.30 Chain Letters. Word association game hosted by Alfie Boe
8.00 The Bill: Speaking Freely. There are serious career problems for Inspector Frazer when he becomes ambitious and accuses a certain people of holding her back. (Oracle)
8.30 This Week: The Return of the Boat People. The plight of the forcibly repatriated boat people is discussed with the Foreign Minister for Vietnam Nam Hong
9.00 In the Heat of the Night starring Carroll O'Connor and Howard Rollins. Virgil and Chief Gillespie investigate the case of a young woman found badly beaten and barely alive on the riverbank
10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Julia Somerville. Weather 10.20 Thames News and weather
10.35 What's the Story? News on Christmas gifts: the City's alternative to socks and aftershave
11.05 Smoother. Tony Francis presents highlights of the second semi final of the Everest World Matchplay from the Brentford Centre. Each followed by Crimethorpe
12.20am Prisoner: Call Black H. Kerry is on parole and Paul escorts her to the flat he has organized
1.50 What the Independent. Each followed by Crimethorpe
2.05 News headlines followed by: Cry Havoc (1943 b/w), starring Joan Blondell, Ann Southern and Margaret Sullivan. After Pearl Harbour a group of nurses find themselves trapped in a doomed hospital near the Pacific. While the Japanese advance they land to the wounded. Directed by Richard Thorpe
4.00 News headlines followed by: Jazz at the Maintenance Shop: Tower of Power
4.30 America's Top Ten presented by Casey Kasem
5.00 ITN Morning News with Phil Romen. Ends at 6.00 am

BBC 2

- 8.00 News 8.15 Westminster 9.00 Hairs and Grooming. Chatsworth House (r)
9.30 A Moment in Time (r)
10.00 Inside Japan: The social welfare system (r)
10.30 Charles Chalk (b/w)
10.50 Film: Anna To the Infinite Power (1983), starring Diana Merrill, Mark Patton and Martha Byrne. Science-fiction story about a 12-year-old girl with incredible talents. Directed by Robert Weimer.
12.30 The Great Escape (b/w) (r) 1.20 Charles Chalk (r) 1.55 History On Your Doorstep. The Story of a House. (r)
2.00 News and weather followed by International Show Jumping a preview of this year's tournament from Olympia
3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live 3.50 News and weather
4.00 Catchword word game
4.30 Talk of the 80s. Judith Hann talks to Sir Clive
5.00 Northern Lights with Frank Nelson's toys for adults (r)
5.05 Go Birding. Tony Soper visits the RSPB reserves in the last of the series
5.30 Film 89 with Barry Norman (r)
6.00 Film: The Apartment (1960, b/w), starring Jack Lemmon as an insurance clerk who attempts to climb the corporate ladder by loaning his apartment to various executives. With Shirley MacLaine and Fred MacMurray. Directed by Billy Wilder
8.00 The State of Europe: Dying For A Holiday. A report on pollution in the Mediterranean
8.30 Bed, Chair, Table, Lamp: Bed. An amusing look at the many significant events which occur in, on and around this humble piece of furniture. (CeeFax)
9.00 Monty Python's Flying Circus (r) 9.30 40 Minutes: All About Ambridge (CeeFax) (see Choice)
10.10 The Staggering Stories of Ferdinand De Saussure told by Enn Reiter and Roberto Parada. The postman in a Chilean fishing village falls passionately in love with a local waitress and seeks the help of a famous Chilean poet to further his cause. Spanish dialogue with English subtitles. Directed by Antonio Skarmeta. Ends at 1.30am

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Channel Four Daily 9.25 The Art of Landscape. Film images of the natural world accompanied by music
12.00 The Parliament Programme 12.30 Business Daily 1.00 Sesame Street
2.00 Film: Ah Wilderness! (1935, b/w), starring Lionel Barrymore, Wallace Beery and Mickey Rooney in an adaptation of Eugene O'Neill's romantic comedy about small-town life in New England. Directed by Clarence Brown
3.50 Book Bargain (b/w). A 1937 documentary showing how the London telephone directory is made (r)
4.00 Not on Sunday presented by Brian Redhead
4.30 Fifteen-to-One
5.00 Film: Over the Sea (1937, b/w), starring Fred Lupino, Laddie Cluff and John Wood in the film adaptation of a West End musical farce. A former music hall artiste inherits a life and inherits a wife. Directed by Graham Cutts. 6.25 Le Tombeau de Lumiere. Animated tribute to the pioneers of the cinema
6.30 Club Xtra. Neneh Cherry and Paul McGann capture a day in their lives on video camera
7.00 Channel 4 News
7.50 Comment followed by Weather
8.00 Hard News. Raymond Snoddy of the Financial Times takes a look at all aspects of the press and invites the public to air their grievances against particular newspapers
8.30 Brass. Comedy series starring Timothy West (r)
9.00 Behaving Badly. Seize the Day starring Judy Dench. Just when Mark and Rebecca have rearranged their lives around their her, Bridget decides to move to her
9.30 The Cat in the Hat (r) (Oracle)
10.00 True Stories (see Choice)
11.30 Sumo. Wrestling from Japan
12.00 Film: Burning Paradise (1983), starring Oscar Castro, Marcello Aste and Roberto Parada. The postman in a Chilean fishing village falls passionately in love with a local waitress and seeks the help of a famous Chilean poet to further his cause. Spanish dialogue with English subtitles. Directed by Antonio Skarmeta. Ends at 1.30am

SATELLITE

- SKY ONE
5.00am Sky News 5.30 European Business Channel 6.00 DJ Kat Show 6.30 Panel Pot Pourri 10.00 The Sullivan 10.30 Sky By Day 11.00 A Problem Shared 12.00 Another World 12.30am Garry's Hospital 1.50 As the World Turns 2.45 Loving 3.15 The Young Doctors 3.45 Dennis 4.00 Countdown 5.00 Sky Star. Search 6.00 The New Price Is Right 6.30 Sale of the Century 7.00 Beyond 2000 8.00 Moonlighting 8.00 Wiseguy 10.00 Jameson Tonight 11.00 Sky World News Tonight 11.30 The Big Valley 12.30am Countdown
SKY NEWS
News on the hour.
5.00am Sky News 5.30 Entertainment This Week 6.30 European Business Channel 10.30 BMTV Good Health 11.30 Our World 12.30am NBC Today 1.30 NBC Today 2.30 Question Time Live 3.15 PM's Question Time Live 3.30 Parliament Live 4.30 Our World 5.00 Live at Five 6.00 Beyond 2000 7.30 The Reporters 8.30 The Frank Bough Interview 8.30 Target 10.30 The Reporters 11.30 NBC Nightly News 12.30am The FBI 1.30 Target 2.30 The Reporters 3.30 The FBI 4.30 Target
SKY MOVIES
From 8.00am The Satellite Shop 2.00pm Cindy Eller (1985): Modern-day serial killer
4.00 The Christmas That Almost Wasn't: Will the evil Prince stop Santa Claus delivering Christmas presents?
6.00 Nice Girls Don't Explode (1987): When a teenager's passions are aroused, she bursts into flames
7.40 Entertainment Tonight 8.00 Hot Pursuit (1987): John Cusack embarks on a treacherous journey to join his girlfriend on holiday
9.40 Projector: David Castel previews a selection of films coming soon on Sky Movies
10.00 The Deliberate Stranger - Part One (1986): Chronicles the search for the notorious serial killer, Ted Bundy
11.30 Nightmares in Badham County (1976): Two female hitchhikers reject the advances of a local sheriff
1.15am The Hitchhiker: Tonight's episode is W.G.O.D.
1.45 No Safe Haven (1986): An undercover CIA agent vows to track down his brother
4.00 Mr. Mom (1983): Michael Keaton as the stay-at-home husband and Teri Garr as the working wife. Ends at 5.00am

VARIATIONS

- BBC1 WALES: 6.30pm-7.00pm Wales Today 7.00pm-7.30pm Wales Today 7.30pm-8.00pm Wales Today 8.00pm-8.30pm Wales Today 8.30pm-9.00pm Wales Today 9.00pm-9.30pm Wales Today 9.30pm-10.00pm Wales Today 10.00pm-10.30pm Wales Today 10.30pm-11.00pm Wales Today 11.00pm-11.30pm Wales Today 11.30pm-12.00pm Wales Today 12.00pm-12.30pm Wales Today 12.30pm-1.00pm Wales Today 1.00pm-1.30pm Wales Today 1.30pm-2.00pm Wales Today 2.00pm-2.30pm Wales Today 2.30pm-3.00pm Wales Today 3.00pm-3.30pm Wales Today 3.30pm-4.00pm Wales Today 4.00pm-4.30pm Wales Today 4.30pm-5.00pm Wales Today 5.00pm-5.30pm Wales Today 5.30pm-6.00pm Wales Today 6.00pm-6.30pm Wales Today 6.30pm-7.00pm Wales Today 7.00pm-7.30pm Wales Today 7.30pm-8.00pm Wales Today 8.00pm-8.30pm Wales Today 8.30pm-9.00pm Wales Today 9.00pm-9.30pm Wales Today 9.30pm-10.00pm Wales Today 10.00pm-10.30pm Wales Today 10.30pm-11.00pm Wales Today 11.00pm-11.30pm Wales Today 11.30pm-12.00pm Wales Today 12.00pm-12.30pm Wales Today 12.30pm-1.00pm Wales Today 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BA has big stake in new pan-European air service

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Businessmen will be able to commute between any two of 75 European cities and return home on the same day using Sabena World Airways, a new pan-European airline created yesterday by British Airways, KLM and Sabena.

The new airline will be based in Brussels and will, it is hoped, dominate inter-European regional travel from 1995. British Airways, which is being forced into an ever-tighter strait-jacket at overcrowded Heathrow and Gatwick airports, is to pay £34 million for a 20 per cent stake in the carrier, which will be 60 per cent owned by Sabena, the Belgian national airline, with the remaining 20 per cent held by KLM of the Netherlands.

Both Lord King of Warrnaby, BA's chairman, and Sir Colin Marshall, its chief executive, will have seats on the 10-member board, which will concentrate on developing a new network of inter-European services linked into the Brussels hub.

Operations using the new Sabena World Airways structure will begin next month, but the new network of routes spreading throughout the European Community and beyond will not be fully opened until 1995. Sabena, which now has a fleet of 19 Boeing 737s, will increase the number of short-haul aircraft considerably to meet the expected demand. Their long-range DC10s and Boeing 747s will continue to operate from Brussels but will be linked into big British and Dutch airports for their main services, many of which have been losing money.

Flights to North America from Brussels will, for example, stop in Manchester, and services to Africa and South America in Amsterdam.

It is predicted that, during the next six years, the number of passengers carried on the new airline will be three times greater than the number who flew by Sabena alone last year. During its first year of operation it is likely that the new airline will lose money. It is predicted, however, that it will break even after the second year and make a healthy profit thereafter.

One of the main attractions to British Airways of the deal is that it will have access to Brussels airport, probably the last in Europe with the capacity to expand and take more flights.

It is hoped that businessmen will get used to flying from, for example, Birmingham to Stuttgart simply by changing at Brussels. It is hoped, too, that once the new airline is fully geared up to meet the expected increase in demand, it will be able to compete for traffic with the "Golden Hub" now being built at Paris's Charles de Gaulle Airport.

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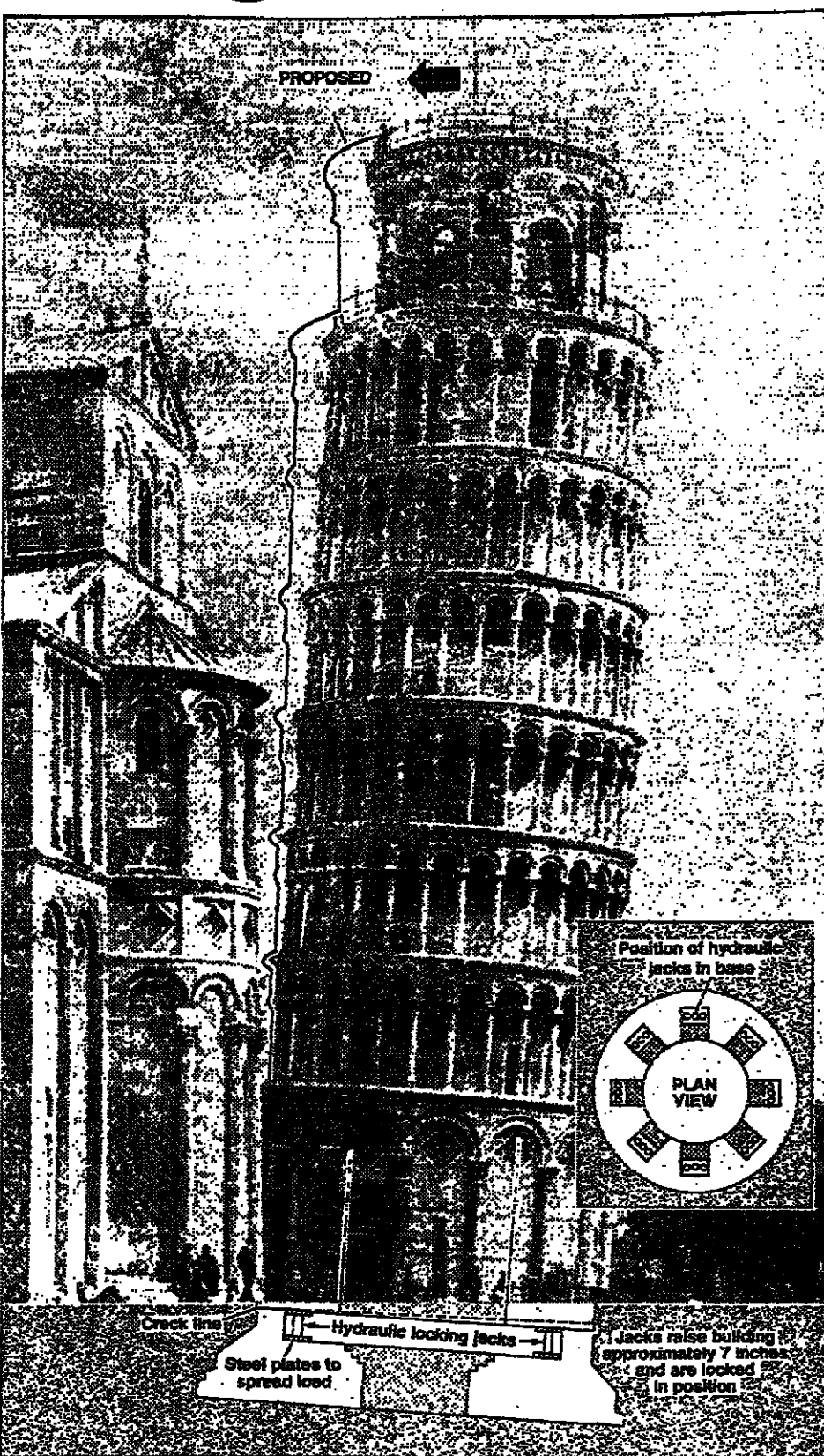
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Taking a tilt at Pisa's problem



How the leaning tower, with its 17ft tilt, would look after being made permanently safe.

By Charles Kneivt
Architecture Correspondent

A British professor is bidding to work on what is perhaps one of the world's greatest engineering problems: how to make the Leaning Tower of Pisa permanently safe without losing the tilt.

Professor Cecil Watkins, of Tober Partnership, in Hove, East Sussex, has had talks with the Italian Embassy in London about his plans, which would cost about £500,000.

He is now waiting to hear if he has won a formal commission to develop them further. However, he faces stiff competition for what must rank as one of the most prestigious projects.

His idea is to slice through the base of the tower, insert eight permanent hydraulic rams and then gently to jack up the leaning side towards the perpendicular.

Already, however, the project is dogged by Italian politics, pride and the concern of the people of Pisa who are worried that they might lose the massive tourist revenue which the tower generates.

The tower's hollow interior has been full of scaffolding for several years as a temporary measure to prevent it from leaning further but to no avail. Professor Watkins describes his solution as "sliding a sixpence under a glass of water". It is, he says, the only method likely to succeed.

The tower, or campanile, 52ft in diameter, was begun in 1174 and is eight storeys high to its belfry, which was added in 1350. In 1954 its "lean" was about 14ft, but it has recently grown to about 17ft. Problems with its foundations began during the tower's original construction.

According to the "middle third" rule used by engineers, with a few more feet it will literally topple over, being in a state described as "unstable equilibrium".

Professor Watkins, who has been forecasting the tower's fate for two years, plans to correct its lean to 7ft-8ft.

He confessed yesterday, however, that the Italian authorities did not seem to like the "medicine" that he was proposing.

NHS reforms

£16,000 for budget-holding GPs

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The Government yesterday offered a £16,000 payment to GP practices wishing to express an interest in holding their own budget as part of the health service reforms.

It has also made a number of significant concessions since the White Paper to make this key proposal more attractive to Britain's 32,000 GPs.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, claimed yesterday that so many GPs would now be attracted to the scheme "that we will have more applications than we can currently handle."

The scheme would give doctors new powers to decide how NHS money could best be used to meet their patients' needs in the most effective way, he said.

However, the British Medical Association, which is strongly opposed to the plan, said an attempt to cash-limit a demand-led service would damage patient care, with the choice of treatment influenced by the cost of care.

Dr Michael Wilson, chairman of the BMA's General Medical Services Committee, said: "The introduction of a series of sweeteners to induce doctors to sign up for budget holding suggests a degree of desperation by the Secretary of State to sell his proposals."

As a result of the concessions practices will no longer have to recoup overspending in the following year and the size of each budget will be reviewed and updated annually instead of every three years.

Although initially the scheme was to apply to practices with 11,000 patients or over this has now been lowered to 9,000 patients. Smaller practices will also be able to join together to become fund-holders.

About 1,000 practices would be eligible (nine per cent of all practices) covering a quarter of the population. The size of the budget will be up to individual negotiation but is expected to be about £1 million for an average practice with 11,000 patients, significantly higher than the range of £600,000 to 700,000 given in the White Paper.

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Another place ... another daydream

By Charles Kneivt
Architecture Correspondent

"I, Richard, Lord Acton, do swear by Almighty God..." The mention of God caused a stir among the Bishops. They are by tradition on the Government's side but not very much.

This was a new experience for your sketchwriter. I had drifted over to the Lords and stumbled upon a new one being sworn in. He looked a decent cove.

Assuming (and we can) that he was not signing on in order to use the place as a posh pub (some, it is whispered, do), what might Lord Acton have watched yesterday?

The "Short Debate" on Tibet and the Dalai Lama could have taken his fancy. Or he might have preferred the debate on museums, galleries and "treasure trove". And if Lord Acton were of a Betjemanian disposition he could have planned for the debate "to call attention to the post-war changes in the rural and suburban communities of Britain". The Upper House offered (as always) a pot-pourri of the whimsical, the exotic and the banal.

But first he would have sat through Questions. Lord Hatch of Lusby, a barrack-room lawyer in an unusually Gothic barrack-room, was claiming knowledge of a place he variously pronounced "Tine-o" and "Tine-o".

Lord Hatch wanted something done. We can sum up Lord Hatch (for the Government) as saying that this was rather beyond him, but at least we didn't see Indonesia arms "for internal repression".

Lord Gladwyn of Penrhos (Labour's Leader in the Lords) wanted to know how we could tell which of the arms we sell were for internal repression and which not. We can sum up Lord Gladwyn as saying he hadn't the faintest idea. Lord Hatch persisted and was greeted with the gentle continual mooring which passes (among their Lordships) for furious indignation.

He was mooded finally into submission and Lord Campbell of Croy rose with some enquiries about undesirable fishing practices. For the Government, Lord Sanderson of Bowden started "I agree that discarding dead

fish is wasteful" and continued in this rousing vein until relieved by Lord Dean (Labour) with a question about the sale of Rover.

This was fielded in bouncy, political style by a minister (Lord Trefgarne) who is rather cocky for a peer and got them moving on all sides, until eventually the alleged culprit himself, Lord Young, was mooded to his feet and gave the usual answer, with conviction: this was a good deal for the taxpayer, the employees of Rover, etc. Nobody, of course, had said it wasn't. He also stoutly defended the good name of his department. I have to tell his Lordship that nobody is questioning the good name of his department.

Then Lord Hooson called for the abolition of County Councils. For the Government Lord Hesketh, in bow-tie, thought "the man on the Clapham Omnibus" would rather miss counties. Lord Hesketh sounded as though he had only a rough idea of where Clapham might be. So it fell to Lord Bottomley (Labour) to speak for the man on the Clapham Omnibus himself. Not only did he speak for the South London bus-passer, he speaks like him, too. He recalled - from his days in local government - that the rise-pier-er...

It reminded me of the story about when - as Arthur Bottomley, Commonwealth Secretary - Harold Wilson sent him to confer with tribal chiefs in Rhodesia. Apparently the chiefs, deeply suspicious of British motives, were persuaded to gather with their wives in a great marquee. Bottomley gave the keynote speech. "Ladies and gentlemen," he started, "We are gathered here to die..." And at this the multitude rushed screaming from the tent, convinced that the white men had organized a twentieth-century repeat of the tragic ambush of Lobengula.

But I was daydreaming. So, perhaps, was the new Lord Acton, by now. Might he follow me further into a speculation upon how we might "harmonize" our aristocracy with its EC counterparts to create a Euro-peerage which is truly communitarian? Alas, there is no time. Another day!

Matthew Parris

Boat people policy review

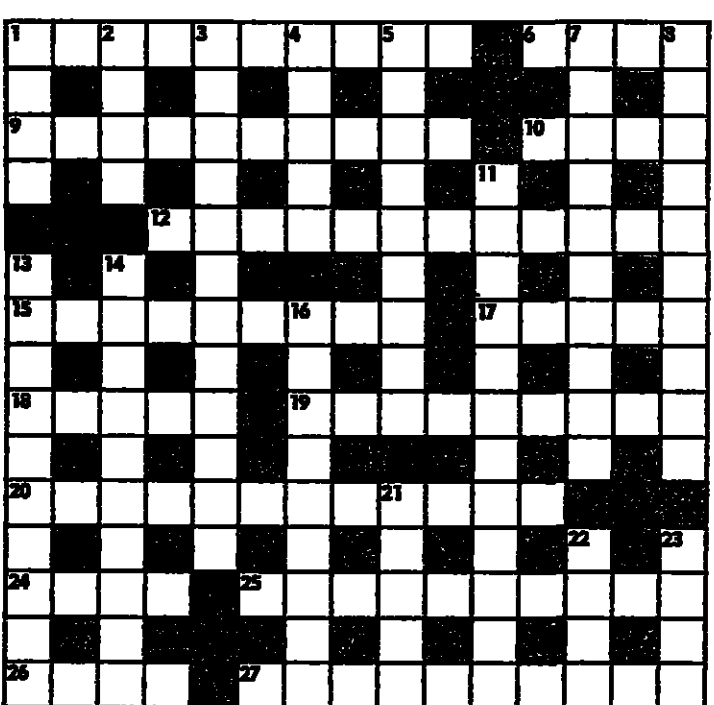
Continued from page 1
Vietnamese, would be encouraged to set sail.

And a former official of the UN refugees commission accused the British Government of being complacent about the screening procedure. Mr Simon Ripley, who resigned from the commission earlier this year in protest at the screening process, said there

was a great possibility that people who could qualify for refugee status were being "screened out".

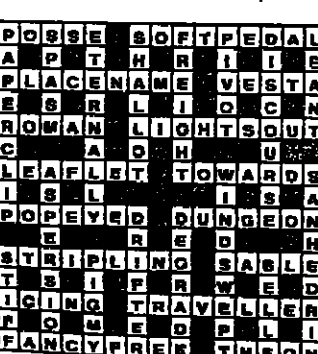
But Mr Maude told the Commons foreign affairs committee: "I honestly don't think that anyone has seriously suggested that people are being screened out when they should properly be classified as refugees."

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,165



- ACROSS**
- It keeps the house dry, it is often felt (4,6).
 - Business condition for capital cover (4).
 - Deliberately sketched lady's extremities (10).
 - The housewife's part in perpetuity (4).
 - Not following the roads in Ireland? (5-7).
 - A substance intended, say, for feeding cattle for payment (9).
 - Unctuous, like Arbuckle (5).
 - Agree to alter the bore (5).
 - Sweet girl is first victim of the joker (5,4).
 - Won on knight's wrong move - what ignoramus? (4-8).
- DOWN**
- Girl docked, returning to Capri (4).
 - He announces fresh information about the plant (10).
 - Goes astray and trespasses (4).
 - Professed to be one bit less troubled (10).
 - Double fare for the old bird? (4).
 - Stick to pig food (4).
 - Smoker's down-and-out? (9,3).
 - Employers' dishonest ruses (5).
 - Note lawful alternative for one who accosts people (9).
 - District branch, not in Victoria, for example (10).
 - Child may be transported by this loutish sequence (5-5).
 - Yellow kind of solar gas that creeps low along the prairie (7,5).
 - Device sometimes used to make old books readable (5-5).
 - Finion and detain an old choker (4-6).
 - Old turn with cape has precision (9).
 - Son lives with Susan (5).
 - Objections raised to 3 (4).
 - Silver or gold, I'd say (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,164



Concise crossword, page 20

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

TRIPHTEONG

- A three-dong whip
- Three vowels in one syllable
- A kind of spiked man-trap

GOWPEN

- A Hinchbacked
- A barrowing pigsty
- With capped hands

CELEUSMA

- A lurching cough
- A call to rowers
- A type of sea-shore cabbage

FUGLE

- To cheat, esp. extra-maritally
- A German drill sergeant
- A false-tie bagle

Answers on page 20

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0888 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks
C. London (within N & S Circs.) 731
M-ways/roads M4-A1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T. 733
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735
Wales 744
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 744
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 12 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

WEATHER

England and Wales will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Brighter weather will spread north-east into south-west England and south Wales but there will be some heavy and perhaps thunder showers. Northern Ireland and southern Scotland will be cloudy, too, with rain at times. Both here and over higher parts of northern England there could be sleet and snow. Outlook: cloud and outbreaks of rain in most places.

ABROAD

MODAYS: t-thunder; d-drizzle; lg-fog; s-sun; si-sleet; sn-snow; f-fair; c-cloud; r-rain

	C	F		C	F
Algeria	16	61	Malaysia	22	72
Algeria	16	61	Malaysia	22	72
Algeria	16	61	Malaysia	22	72
Algeria	16	61	Malaysia	22	72
Algeria	16	61	Malaysia	22	72

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sum	Rel	Max	Min	Wind
London	16	61	22	72	10
London	16	61	22	72	10
London	16	61	22	72	10
London	16	61	22	72	10
London	16	61	22	72	10

LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 8.52 pm to 8.00 am
Bristol 8.52 pm to 8.00 am
Manchester 8.52 pm to 8.00 am
Penzance 8.52 pm to 8.00 am

Sum time 7.50 am
Moon sets 10.02 am
Last Quarter December 19

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday in Celsius:
Fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F
Belfast	3	37
Birmingham	3	37
Bristol	3	37
Cardiff	3	37
Edinburgh	3	37
Glasgow	3	37
London	3	37
Manchester	3	37
Newcastle	3	37
Nottingham	3	37
Sheffield	3	37
Southampton	3	37
Stirling	3	37
Wolverhampton	3	37
Wrexham	3	37

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2.28	6.9	7.1	12.1
London Bridge	2.28	6.9	7.1	12.1
London Bridge	2.28	6.9	7.1	12.1
London Bridge	2.28	6.9	7.1	12.1
London Bridge	2.28	6.9	7.1	12.1

Today's Low Tides

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	1.57	4.4	2.08	4.4
London Bridge	1.57	4.4	2.08	4.4
London Bridge	1.57	4.4	2.08	4.4
London Bridge	1.57	4.4	2.08	4.4
London Bridge	1.57	4.4	2.08	4.4

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0888 500 followed by the appropriate code.

TIMES WEATHERCAL

Greater London 701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex 702
Dorset, Hampshire & IOW 703
Devon & Cornwall 704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Dorset, Devon & Cornwall 705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxford 706
Bedfordshire & Essex 707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire 708
West Midlands & Shropshire & Warwickshire 709
Shropshire, Herefordshire & Worcestershire 710
Central Midlands 711
East Midlands 712
Lincolnshire & Humberside 713
Derbyshire & Cheshire 714
Gwynedd & Chwyd 715
N.W. England 716
W & S Yorkshire & Wales 717
N.E. England 718
Cumbria & Lake District 719
S.W. Scotland 720
W. Central Scotland 721
Edinburgh, Fife, Lothian & Borders 722
E. Central Scotland 723
Glasgow & E. Highlands 724
N.W. Scotland 725
Cairnmore, Orkney & Shetland 726
N. Ireland 727

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 12C (54F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 0C (32F). Humidity: 60%. Wind: 10 mph. Rain: 2.0 mm. Fog: 0.5 mm. Haze: 0.5 mm. Clouds: 0.5 mm. Visibility: 0.5 km. Pressure: 1013 hPa. UV: 0.5. Air quality: Good. Water quality: Good. Soil quality: Good. Noise level: Good. Traffic level: Good. Crime

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5970 (-0.0050)
W German mark
2.7889 (-0.0207)
Exchange index
86.7 (-0.4)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1880.1 (+18.6)
FT-SE 100
2386.2 (+22.7)
USM (Datastream)
150.95 (+0.05)

Market report, page 30

Pound hit by mark's strength

The mark had another field day on the foreign exchange market, shearing more than two pence off the pound and forcing the dollar to its lowest for more than a year and a half.

Sentiment was fuelled by growing trust in the West German economy's ability to benefit from the opening of eastern Europe and the conviction that the Bundesbank will keep interest rates firm.

After early Bank of England intervention to support the pound, the trade-weighted index recovered to close at 86.7 - 0.4 point down. The pound finished at DM2.7889 and nearly a cent down against the dollar at \$1.5970.

Arrow change

Blue Arrow, the employment services group, is to change its name. Shareholders will be asked to vote for a change to Manpower, the name of the US group at the centre of the controversial 1987 rights issue.

STOCK MARKETS

New York
Dow Jones 2783.87 (+11.74)
Nikkei Average 3062.42 (+258.89)
Hong Kong
Hang Seng 2851.84 (+42.28)
Amsterdam
CDS Tendency 184.3 (-1.2)
Sydney: AO 1615.2 (+2.5)
Frankfurt: DAX 1638.54 (-14.53)
Brisbane
General 6443.28 (-33.23)
Perse: CAC 651.7 (+2.2)
Zurich: SIK Gen 616.1 (-8.0)
London
FT-A All Share 1186.76 (+9.76)
FT-100 1235.50 (+11.81)
FT Gold Mines 317.8 (+0.4)
FT Fixed Interest 92.19 (-0.02)
FT Govt Secur 83.68 (-0.05)
Recent issues Page 30
Closing prices Page 31

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER
Guinness 881p (+11p)
Scottish & New 354p (+11p)
Barclays 582p (+11p)
J Leopol 457p (+15p)
Net West 345p (+11p)
Standard Chart 682p (+13p)
British Borneo 655p (+35p)
Harland Simon 645p (+10p)
Hoskyns Group 455p (+25p)
Body Shop 557p (+10p)
British Aerospace 570p (+11p)
Western Motors 800p (+27p)
Thames TV 521p (+18p)
Savoy Hotels 'A' 855p (+35p)
Unilever 718p (+15p)
Glaxo 822p (+25p)
Hawker Siddeley 691p (+17p)
FALLS
Charter Cons 455p (-13p)
Borland 727p (-35p)
STC 255p (-15p)
Closing prices Page 30
SEAG Volume 33036
SEAG Volume 534.1m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 15%
3-month interbank 15 1/4-15 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 14 1/2-14 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 10 1/4%
Federal Funds 8 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.71-7.70%
30-year bonds 102 1/2-102 3/4

CURRENCIES

London New York
£: \$1.5970
£: DM2.7889
£: SFR12.4913
£: FF16.4902
£: Yen229.49
£: Index86.7
ECU 10.732912
£: ECU1.364420
New York
£: \$1.5950
£: DM1.7400
£: SFR12.5745
£: FF16.5000
£: Yen229.49
£: Index86.7
ECU 10.732912
£: ECU1.364420

GOLD

London Fixing
AM \$417.10 pm \$413.00
close \$411.50-412.00 (\$258.75-257.25)
New York
Comex \$408.80-409.10

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) \$18.75 bid (\$19.25)
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia S	2.28	1.96
Austria Sch	23.36	18.15
Belgium Fr	31.35	57.25
Canada C	1.347	1.237
Denmark Kr	16.46	16.46
Finland Mk	5.91	5.91
France Fr	6.55	6.55
Germany DM	2.36	2.36
Greece Dr	277	277
Italy Lit	236.27	236.27
Japan Yen	216.00	216.00
Netherlands Gld	3.26	3.07
Norway Kr	11.38	10.54
Portugal Esc	200.48	200.48
Spain Pes	166.39	166.39
Sweden Kr	10.42	10.42
Switzerland Fr	2.02	2.02
Turkey Lira	6770	2670
USA \$	1.59	1.59
Yugoslavia Dnr	ref	100000

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 117.5 (October)

Recast CEEB accounts show fall in profits



Wakeham: accounts delayed

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

The detailed costs of running Britain's nuclear power stations, which led to them being withdrawn from the Government's £15 billion plans to privatize the power industry, are to be revealed next week, six months behind schedule.

The audited accounts to be discussed by the Electricity Council, the umbrella body for the industry while it remains in the public sector, today.

They will confirm that the 12 area electricity boards in England and Wales, which are to be privatized

individually, made large profits last year, but will also show that the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB), which is being broken up into two new generating companies, was far less profitable than in previous years.

The accounts have been delayed while the CEGB applied new accounting standards, forced on it before privatization, and which reflect new nuclear fuel costs and the cost of eventual decommissioning of power stations.

The City will analyse the figures to arrive at its view of the true value of the assets, which will pass into the ownership of the two generating

companies. National Power and PowerGen. That value will ultimately fix the price the Government will put on the industry.

Mr John Wakeham, the Energy Secretary, has seen the accounts, but refused to elaborate yesterday to the Commons Energy Select Committee. However, he did say it was only on October 11 that he learned the full costs of the nuclear industry and this information led him to withdraw the entire nuclear network from privatization on November 9.

He said the prices he was then given reflected the City's view of the costs of nuclear power, and because of the timetable for privatization, he

was forced to take the nuclear stations out of the programme. "There was no time to re-educate the City."

Mr Wakeham also said the figures supplied by the CEGB in October reflected new advice it had taken since the privatization process had started. "Being floated off on the market concentrated the mind wonderfully."

He rejected suggestions that deception and incompetence were behind the Government's decision to leave nuclear power out of the electricity privatization programme.

He told the Committee it was the

July announcement that the old Magnox power stations would not be privatized which led to a change in the City's perceptions about the cost of nuclear power.

Mr Wakeham added that the decision to keep the nuclear power stations in state ownership did not mean an end to Britain's nuclear power programme.

He said the Sizewell B station would be completed and the Government would review its nuclear options in 1994.

He also said any private company was free to seek planning permission to build a nuclear power station.

Golden shares under fire from Ridley

By Colin Narbrough

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, yesterday spelt out the Government's fundamental dislike of the protective "golden shares" held in privatized companies, pointing out they would be very difficult to defend in the single European market.

The Trade Secretary was defending his decision to waive the Government's "golden share" in Jaguar, without warning the company of the possibility, before the Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry.

But he made clear that the Government's objections only applied to golden shares with time limits and not the lifetime blocking shares it holds in "essential" companies such as British Aerospace, Rolls-Royce, British Telecom and Cable and Wireless.

The special shares created in the privatized water companies run out in December 1994 and can be redeemed before then.

Sir John Egan, the Jaguar chairman, told the same Com-

Brittan to examine airline link



Lord King, the chairman of British Airways, celebrates the opening of the Skyflyers children's lounge at Terminal Four, Heathrow Airport, yesterday

By John Bell
City Editor

Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commissioner for Competition, is to scrutinize a proposed link between three of Europe's leading airlines.

The long-awaited deal, finalized yesterday, is a joint venture between Sabena, the Belgian national carrier, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, and British Airways.

BA and KLM will each hold 20 per cent of the new Sabena World Airlines, with the balance held by the Belgian parent. The three partners said their existing operations would remain autonomous and continue to compete commercially.

BA, led by Lord King, will pay £14 million for its stake while KLM will invest an equivalent amount. Sabena World Airlines will begin operations from January 1.

"We'll be taking a close look at the exact terms of the agreement to see how far it meets conditions for competition," said a spokesman for Sir Leon's office.

He added that the EC expected the three airlines to formally notify Brussels of the agreement shortly.

The joint venture partners said the new airline would exploit opportunities arising from the liberalization of European air transport.

EC transport ministers only last week agreed to further steps aimed at creating freer European air transport, and Sir Leon has pledged to push for more action.

The deal has been under negotiation for months, and the spokesman said the EC had been kept informed on progress of the talks.

In September, Sir Leon told the European Parliament that if the link-up went ahead it could increase competition in some areas and restrict it in others, such as on the Brussels-London route. The EC Commission could prohibit the deal, clear it, or attach conditions to it, he said then.

Comment, page 25

Most water shares beat off profit-taking to end higher

By Michael Clark, Stock Market Correspondent

Dealers reported another hectic trading session in shares of the 10 water companies yesterday, with most of the groups managing to improve on the large premiums achieved during the first day's trading on Tuesday.

The combined turnover of all 10 amounted to 93.6 million shares, compared with a total market turnover of 534 million shares.

Most of the trading was again carried out by the big City institutions, which were trying to increase their weighting in the shares after private investors were allotted more shares than expected.

Most private investors will still have to wait until next week, when they are due to receive their allotment letters, before they can start trading in the shares.

Prices recovered from an early bout of profit-taking with most shares closing higher on the day. The best rises were seen in North West Water, up 4p at 139p, and Southern Water, 4p dearer at 145p.

Anglian rose 1p to 149.5p, South West 2.5p to 149.5p, Welsh Water 1p to 142p, Yorkshire Water 1.5p to 150.5p, and Thames, which is to become a constituent of the FT-SE 100 index, rose 1.5p to 137.5p.

But profit-taking left Northumbrian down 1p at 136p and Wessex, despite talk of French stakebuilding, fell a similar amount to 153p.

Severn Trent finished all-square at 131p.

North West and Severn Trent attracted the biggest turnover with 16 million shares traded apiece.

Market report, page 30

Inquiry is no defence, says Kalms

Mr Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons Group, said it was no defence to the Kingfisher takeover bid to seek the intervention of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry.

Responding to Kingfisher's formal offer document sent out on Tuesday, Mr Kalms denied that the Dixons retail strategy was "fundamentally flawed", as had been claimed by the bidder.

He said the Dixons' strategy of maximizing own brands had made them into brand leaders.

Dixons has not yet submitted its views on the competition question to the Office of Fair Trading, which will aim to decide whether or not to refer the offer to the Monopolies Commission by the first closing date, January 2. Dixons has called in consultants to help prepare the submission.

In the market, Dixons shares closed at 137p, well above the 120p on offer from Kingfisher.

Kalms unruffled, page 27

Brewer lines up \$70m move into the US fruit juice market

Guinness to take Sundance trail

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles

Guinness, Britain's leading brewer famed for its stout, is about to carve a significant strategic niche in the American non-alcoholic drinks market, currently reckoned to be worth \$1 billion (£622 million).

The brewer is ready to pay \$70 million to become part of a partnership to buy the Sundance brand of fizzy fruit juice drinks currently owned by the troubled Stroh Brewery Company. America's third largest brewer, which has been retreating from the highly-competitive American beer market and needs additional cash. Under the agreement, Sundance would be owned by Guinness, Stroh's and a management group.

The deal was expected by the industry to be announced on Monday. A spokesman for Stroh's refused to comment on the speculation yesterday, and Mr Charles Jarvie, the Guinness chairman in America and former president of the Dr Pepper soft drinks company, did not return telephone calls. However, those close to the deal said lawyers have already prepared the papers.

Sundance was launched in California in 1986 and sold almost 750,000 bottles a day in its first year. It went national in 1988 and is described by industry analysts as part of a "new age" beverage category, the fastest-growing segment of the drinks market which includes flavoured softeners and carbonated fruit juices. Industry watchers describe it as a much more sophisticated drink than Coke or Pepsi and aimed at a consumer who no longer wants to drink alcohol. Analysts say the market is difficult to measure but most say it is growing at between 15 and 20 per cent a year.

Mr Tom Pirko, president of Bevmark Inc, the Los Angeles management consultancy, said: "Everyone is looking to get into this category. If Guinness chase this brand now, they can virtually own their own category of non-alcoholic drinks."

The competition has already started.

Seagram, the Canadian drinks group and the world's second largest distiller - against which Guinness has been winning the market battle for scotch and gin - bought Soho Natural Soda earlier this year.

It had only \$25 million in sales last year. But Mr Edgar Bronfman, now reshaping the company for the 1990s, said it could be used as a springboard to buy more.

He said he had looked at 7-Up and the Cadbury Schweppes drinks business - although not very seriously at either, he admitted.

One analyst commented: "Everyone has seen the phenomenal growth that Coke and Pepsi have had and now sees this new market as a way into the sector." Americans already drink more fizzy drinks than water. In 1988, each person drank only 6.4 gallons of water, but consumed almost 46 gallons of fizzy drinks, propelling it to a \$43 billion business.

Telfos sells stake in Runciman

By Melinda Wittstock

Telfos Holdings has sold its 29.4 per cent stake in Walter Runciman, the shipping, insurance and security group it failed to win in a £30 million bid last year, to a single buyer at 425p per share. The stake was bought by a Swedish bank for one of its clients, but Mr Jo Mallins, the Telfos chief executive, said he did not know the identity of the buyer.

Runciman, whose shares closed unchanged at 425p before the announcement was made, was unavailable for comment. But analysts believe the disposal could signal a bid from the buyer, speculated to be a shipping company. Telfos has made a profit of £3.4 million on the £11.6 million disposal.

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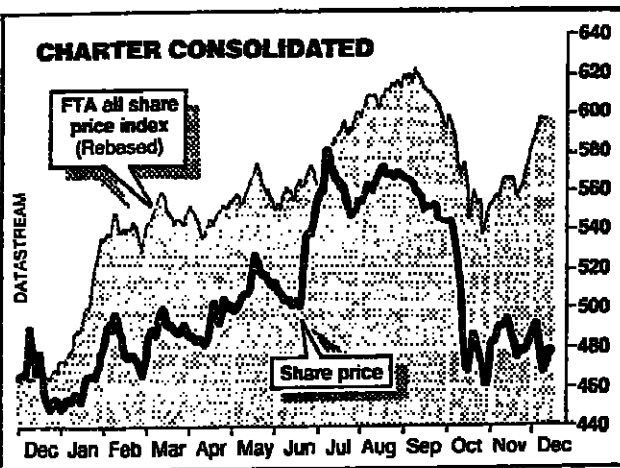
Charter remains in its usual groove

Charter Consolidated, with its collection of industrial interests and passive investments, has always looked a good target for a break-up bid. On that basis, the shares would be worth more than £6, against their current 466p.

The problem has been Minorco, the Luxembourg-based offshore vehicle of the South African mining group, Anglo American. Minorco holds 36 per cent of Charter and until Sir Michael Edwards — promising a "hands-on" approach to management — was moved into the chair of both companies in the middle of last year, it appeared that Minorco was content to leave Charter as it was.

However, Sir Michael has now departed from Minorco and appears somewhat semi-detached as non-executive chairman of Charter. Last week's management shake-up at Johnson Matthey, Charter's 38 per cent associate, consolidated Minorco's influence there without the bother of a bid, and it now seems as if Charter will continue to be allowed to plough its pre-Edwards furrow undisturbed.

This prospect is not altogether pleasing. Admittedly, profits in the six months to September were up a fifth at £38.5 million before tax, and earnings per share were 22 per cent higher at 24.2p. But all the improvement was accounted for by Johnson Matthey,



Charter's quoted Cape Industries subsidiary, higher investment income and interest and the absence of head office reorganization costs.

The contribution from businesses Charter manages directly actually fell, yet Mr Jeffrey Herbert, soon to move up to chief executive, plans to raise their contribution from 40 per cent to 60 per cent of group profits in three years. The first step was taken yesterday with the purchase of Anglo United's quarries for a top whack £53.5 million, a price that compares with net assets of £6.9 million and net profits of only £3 million.

That purchase plus capital expenditure in the managed businesses will halve Charter's £119 million September net cash by the year-end. On full-

year forecasts of £75½ million and earnings of 47.8p, the shares are on a prospective p/e ratio of less than 10, but they are unlikely to be lively performers.

HP Bulmer

Without many more thirsty summers like this one, HP Bulmer and its cider, the feeling persists, will one day become just another name in one of the big brewers' brand lists.

The coincidence of a summer-long heatwave with a surge in advertising spend is the kind of luck you need when the opposition comprises the major brewers, and Bulmer has taken full advantage. Two out of every three



Herbert: raising contributions

extra pints of cider drunk were Strongbow and its Bulmer stablemates, lifting group market share within a half-pint of 50 per cent.

It is, of course, against lager that Bulmer should be measured, and 9 per cent more cider was drunk during the hot weather, against lager's growth of only 2 per cent.

Most of these new drinkers might be expected to return to the wagon when temperatures revert to normal next spring, however, given that cider appears to have a disproportionate appeal to the casual drinker.

Bulmer must take its battle to the enemy in the coming year, seeking space on the shelves and bars of the Allied, Courage and Bass pubs, whose

Taunton and Showers brands will, under the MMC ruling, have leave to attack its markets. The other main starter, which will sell 14 million cases this year. If more than compensated for a lacklustre display by the group's wines and spirits brands.

It is good to see Bulmer at last promising to address these cash-hungry brands, together with the Brazilian pectin and the Australian operations. Bulmer is going to need every pound it can find in the post-MMC drinks era, and that may not be enough to retain its independence. Meanwhile expect profits to top £14.5 million for the year to April, against £10.2 million, indicating a p/e multiple of 12.6 at 185p. It looks high enough.

Stakis

Stakis shares, a significant underperformer of late, look an interesting two-way bet. Either the revamped management, under the current chief executive Mr Andros Stakis, gets its ambitious, five-year and £500 million programme right, or somebody will come along and take the group over.

The probability of the latter was increased last month when Scottish & Newcastle cut its long-standing tie with

Stakis and sold its 6 per cent holding.

Stakis plans to concentrate on the business traveller market, with the new and barely-tried Country Court Hotel concept, along with growing involvement in health care through its Ashbourne care homes offshoot.

Stakis is pledged to avoiding a rights issue to fund its restructuring plan, although gearing will rise from current levels of 35 per cent to no more than 60 per cent.

At yesterday's price, up 1½p to 96½p on pre-tax profits raised from £24.5 million to £27.1 million, there looks to be little real downside. A three-year property revaluation in September should throw up a net asset value in excess of 135p a share.

But the figures, held back by various one-off costs, make lacklustre reading. More than half the 11 per cent pre-tax profits rise came from doubled gains from disposals to £3 million, while £3.3 million of interest from development costs has been capitalized.

Pre-tax profits of £30 million in the current year would put the shares on a prospective p/e multiple of just 9 times, falling to 7 times on estimates of £38.5 million pre-tax in 1990-91. The shares look cheap, assuming the new management can perform. Otherwise, somebody else will.

Saudis 'paid £2bn' to BAe under deal terms

Saudi Arabia is meeting its full financial commitment to British Aerospace under the al-Yamamah arms supplies deal, according to Saudi government sources. It means BAe has almost certainly been paid approaching £2 billion, which is believed to have been due by this year end but looked to be in jeopardy as reports grew that the al-Yamamah deal was running into trouble.

Al-Yamamah is a long-term contract covering various defence equipment needs, including Tornado and Hawk aircraft, and is estimated to be worth at least £20 billion by the end of the century. The Saudis are paying for their arms supplies through oil deals so that when the oil price fell it brought speculation that the deal was being slowed.

Stewart Wight at £106,000

A jump in gross rental income from £79,000 to £149,000 in the six months to September lay behind the 29 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £106,000 at Stewart & Wight. Earnings per share rose by 29 per cent to 86.9p but there is again no interim dividend. Rent review for the Northumberland Hotel and two shops in the Euston Road, London, has been satisfactorily settled.

Chemring in rise to £4.7m

Shares in Chemring rose 15p to 600p on news that pre-tax profits were 11 per cent ahead at £4.71 million in the year to September. Sales rose 31 per cent to £28.9 million. Earnings per share of the company, which makes chaff dispensers and military pyrotechnics, rose 11 per cent to 76.7p and the final dividend rose 2.25p to 16.25p, leaving the total 14 per cent ahead at 24.5p.

London Securities up

London Securities, the property and venture capital group, lifted pre-tax profits from £1.14 million to £1.52 million in the six months to end-September. It is paying a maiden interim dividend of 8.5p.

The company realized a £3 million profit just after the end of the half year from the sale of the development portion of a property, Stratford Office Village, while retaining a 50 per cent profit participation in the site. The company's trading performance continued to be satisfactory and this would be reflected in the outcome for the full year, it said.

NMC rises to almost £5.4m

NMC, the specialist packaging and property group, has boosted pre-tax profits from £4 million to £5.39 million on turnover almost doubled from £36 million to £64 million for the six months to end-September. Much of the growth came from packaging, with property profits flat as a result of high interest rates. Earnings per share rose from 6.16p to 6.21p, and the interim is 1.25p (1p).

Decline for Optometrics

Optometrics, the American-registered USM optical components and instruments maker, saw pre-tax profits slip from \$141,000 to \$125,000 (£77,750) in the six months to end-September, on turnover up 1 per cent to \$1.58 million. Earnings per share are reduced from 1.2 cents to 0.9 cents. There is no interim dividend. US profits were 44 per cent up, but costs and delays hit British results.

Priest's cautious view

A cautious statement with Benjamin Priest's results left the shares 11p down at 96p, even though pre-tax profits in the half year to September rose 5 per cent to £3.46 million, on sales up 21 per cent at £52.8 million. An eight-point rise in the tax charge to 35 per cent left earnings per share 6 per cent lower at 5.63p, though the interim dividend is held at 1.5p.

Mr Christopher Walliker, chairman, said demand for standard yacht winches was lower and the company did not see any immediate rise in this market or in domestic housing, served by two of Priest's businesses.

Whittington buys loss-maker for £1

By Melinda Wittstock

Whittington, the greeting cards to silver-plated giftware manufacturer, is expanding its stationery business with the acquisition of Wellingtons, the loss-making low-cost gift and stationery supplier, for just £1.

Whittington said it will fund the deal, which includes £698,000 in assumed debt, from its existing resources.

Wellingtons reported losses of £296,000 in the 10 months to end-December, 1988, but this year's losses are not expected to exceed £120,000. Net liabilities at the December 31 financial year-end will not be more than £165,000 after a goodwill write-off of £323,000.

Whittington, which hopes to expand Wellingtons' sales through its Maccel chain of wholesale greeting card outlets, is also hiring Wellingtons' management.

Mr Maurice Miller, the Whittington chairman, said he has full confidence in the management, blaming Wellingtons' troubles on its former management.

He said Wellingtons, which is out of manufacturing and concentrating on the design of giftware ranging from mugs to stationery products, will be helped to profitability in 1990 by integration with Whittington's greeting card business.

Mr Miller said there would be no asset disposals. "We bought it for the core business and the strength of the management team. We didn't buy them to stem their losses but to make profits."

Surprise 0.8% rise in US retail sales

From Susan Elliott, Washington

The US economy's retail sector showed unexpected improvements last month, boosted by a rebound in car sales and gains in sales of a range of consumer goods, the Commerce Department reported yesterday.

Retail sales for last month rose a seasonally adjusted 0.8 per cent, compared with a fall of 1.3 per cent in October, to \$144.6 billion (£90 billion). The \$1.2 billion gain was the biggest in three months and may help to calm economists' fears that consumer spending is faltering in the traditional Christmas buying season. A 0.2 per cent gain in retail sales had been expected.

Retail sales, especially cars, have been weaker this year than last. Export gains have

also slowed and some analysts have seen the drop in consumer spending as an important sign that the US economy is stalling.

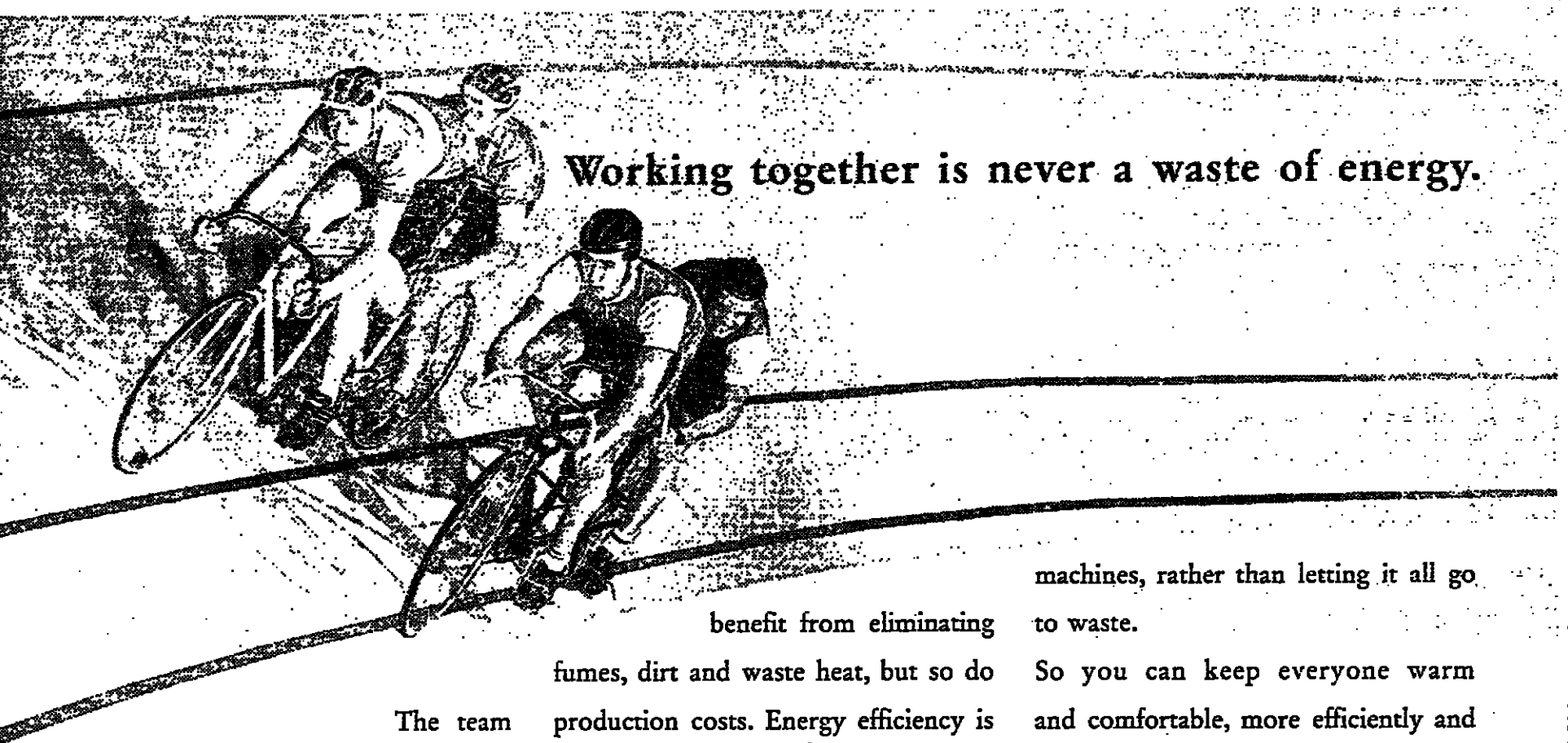
The better-than-expected retail sales may take pressure off the Federal Reserve to further ease interest rates after several disappointing economic results. Figures for the manufacturing sector have been particularly gloomy, leading to expectations of a recession. This autumn, the Fed allowed interest rates to slide to encourage economic growth, which on average is around 2.5 per cent annually.

The largest sales jump was in clothing and accessories, with building materials, hardware and garden supplies also showing good gains.

The fortunes of Sid

Family Money on Saturday looks at how Sid has fared since he bought British Gas shares, now that the launch bonus is on the way, and with

the festivities very much in mind counts the differing costs of having those Christmas Day photographs developed and printed.



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Fimbra meeting averts confidence vote crisis

By Jon Astworth

Fimbra, the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association, was taken to task by a group of members at its annual meeting in London yesterday.

But a worse crisis was averted when a group of rebel members backed down on threats to propose a motion of no confidence in Lord Elton, the chairman, and two-thirds of the Fimbra council. Fimbra has promised better communication with its members, and opened the way for consultation on areas of concern.

Trouble had been brewing between Fimbra and other trade associations, including the National Federation of Independent Financial Advis-

ers, over attempts to impose a single professional indemnity scheme on all Fimbra members. A working party is now to be formed to investigate the matter of professional indemnity.

Angry members criticized the high level of salaries allegedly paid to Fimbra staff. Lord Elton, who has seen his salary rise from £52,000 last year to more than £80,000 this year, was singled out for punishment. His salary included a payment of £10,000 made towards the provision of a pension.

"The wages should reflect more accurately the salaries of the membership who pay money in to apparently be

squandered," said one angry member. Others called for the appointment of an external management consultant to assess the level of salaries.

Fimbra reported a surplus of £324,360 in the year to March 31, 1989 - against a deficit of £2.3 million in the nine months to March 1988.

Fimbra increased fees for members in April, 1989, after the publication of a detailed review of funding by Touche Ross, the management consultants. The number of member firms has fallen from 8,900 in March to 8,179 this month, representing 25,612 individuals.

As expected, Lord Elton announced he is to retire early

next year, leaving enough time for a suitable successor to be found. But he defended his record as Fimbra chairman, despite widespread criticism of his role. "I was able to bring to the post the detached judgement of an independent regulator, with national and international connections to draw on."

Lord Elton said someone with a hands-on feel for the industry would be in a better position to serve it in the years ahead. "It is right that you should get a new figurehead," he told the meeting.

"Perhaps he will listen in a way I would have liked to, but may not always have been able to."

Bulmer to review operations

By Our City Staff

The future of HP Bulmer's wines and spirits division and its Australian operations is in doubt as it undertakes a complete review of activities in both areas after disappointing results.

Mr John Rudgard, the group managing director, expects the review to be completed by April.

Bulmer, the Strongbow cider maker, lifted pre-tax profits from £6.3 million to £7.6 million in the six months to October, after a summer when it boosted its share of the cider market to 49.5 per cent.

Shareholders collect a 2.88p interim dividend, against 2.68p previously.

Operating profits from cider - including fruit juices - were £6.8 million, more than 50 per cent higher than the £4.5 million earned a year ago, as Bulmer's cider sales increased by 12 per cent, compared with the industry's 9 per cent growth.

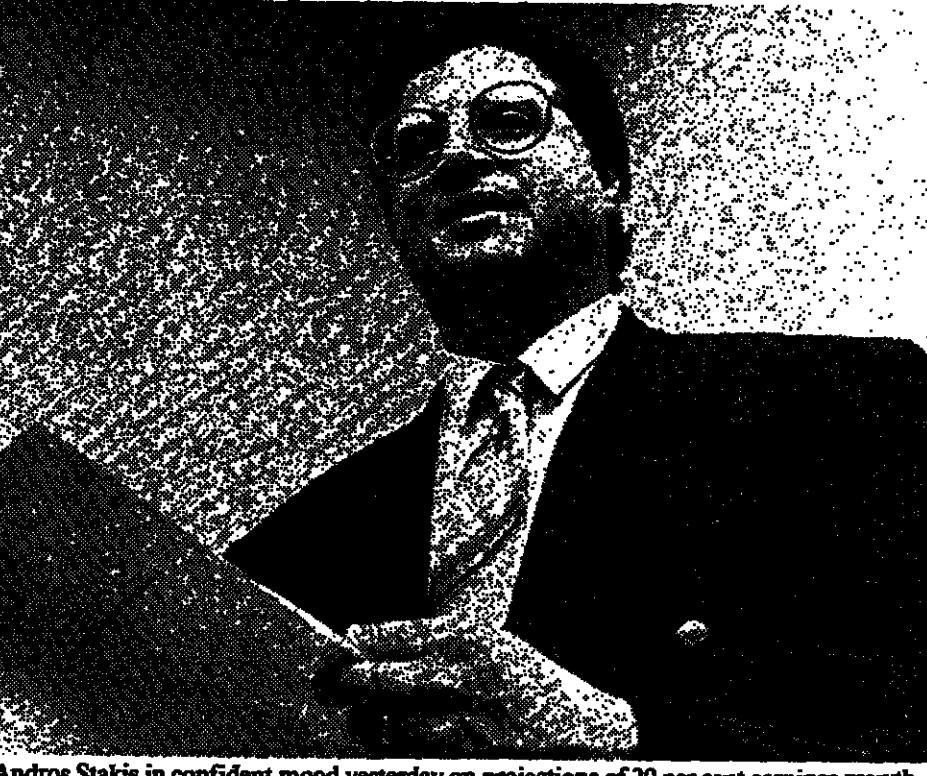
Perrier, distributed by Bulmer in Britain since 1979 and now selling 14 million cases a year against 150,000 then, and Burton, Britain's top-selling English mineral water, did well to turn the wines and spirits downturn into a 53 per cent increase at £2.1 million.

Profits from pectin, the citrus fruit peel product which features in everything from sticking plaster to soft drinks, dipped from £1.3 million to £1.1 million, and Australian profits slumped from £300,000 to £100,000.

Temps, page 24

Stakis £365,000 pay-offs

ALISTAIR GRANT



Andros Stakis in confident mood yesterday on projections of 20 per cent earnings growth

Stakis, the Scottish hotels, leisure and property group, is making payments totalling £365,000 to two former directors who left this summer as part of a boardroom shake-up (Martin Waller writes).

The payments will be contained in the 1988-89 accounts but were not revealed in the preliminary figures for the year to October 1 published yesterday.

The compensation package is one of several one-off payments which kept pre-tax profits to an 11 per cent rise to £27.1 million, despite net gains on the sale of businesses doubling to £2.99 million. A

final dividend of 1.6p makes a total payment advanced from 1.95p to 2.31p.

The payments are to Mr Donald Macdonald, who was managing director of the hotels division until June, and Mr Frank O'Callaghan, the former finance director who left the board two months previously.

Stakis was also hit by a shortfall of around £300,000 in profits from its one London casino, the Stakis Regency Club in Russell Square, where business was disrupted by roadworks. There were further costs from rationalization of other businesses in the leisure

division. Mr Andros Stakis, chief executive and son of the founder, whose appointment last year coincided with the abrupt departure of the former managing director, Mr John Longhry, said there was no reason why the target of 20 per cent earnings per share growth should not be achieved in the current year.

The group will be helped by very low tax because of industrial building allowances on hotel-building. Stakis plans a £500 million capital spending programme over the next five years without recourse to rights issues.

Temps, page 24

Charter buys Coalite quarries

By Jeremy Andrews

Charter Consolidated has paid Anglo United £53.5 million for the quarry interests of Coalite group.

This is around £14 million more than Anglo expected it would raise when it launched its £478 million bid for the smokeless fuel group in the summer.

Anglo has to repay £200 million of short-term borrowings raised for the bid by Christmas next year, and the sale ensures it is virtually certain that it will attain its target of £100 million from disposals by its year-end in March.

Charter's bid was lower by several hundred thousand pounds than the top figure offered. It was accepted because Charter had "the will and the ability to complete early," said Mr David McErlain, chairman of Anglo.

However, the price represents a considerable premium to net assets of £6.9 million in March, and works out at 18 times net profits of £3 million from the quarries operations last year.

The news accompanied Charter's results for the six months to September, which showed profits up a fifth at £38.5 million and earnings per share 22 per cent ahead at 24.2p.

All the rise was attributable to its quoted subsidiary, Cape Industries, its associate Johnson Matthey, and a £3.7 million rise to £12.1 million from investment income, interest and securities trading.

Lower central charges also added impetus to the advance.

The contribution from the mining machinery, railway track clip and mining activities directly fell slightly.

The interim dividend is raised from 4.75p to 6.5p to reduce the disparity with the final.

The company said, however, that it should not be taken as an indication of a 37 per cent increase in the full year total.

Temps, page 24

Teredo makes a net loss

Teredo Petroleum, the USM-quoted independent oil exploration company, had pre-tax profits for the year ended September 30 of £91,000, compared with £110,000. There is a net loss of £8,000 after flotation costs of £99,000.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Laying Barlow Clowes' ghost peacefully to rest

Soon, maybe even today, we will see the report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration into the Barlow Clowes affair. The report from Sir Anthony Barrowclough will hopefully take over where the report from Sir Godfrey Le Quesne left off and begin to apportion blame.

The Le Quesne report was the result of an inquiry into the facts of the matter and, although it catalogued a series of errors and omissions on the part of the Department of Trade and Industry, it made no censure. Even less did it "exonerate" the DTI, although the then Secretary of State, Lord Young of Graham, defended the DTI's role in his traditional robust manner, both at the Press conference, now more than a year ago, to respond to the Le Quesne report and to his own backbenchers on the same night.

The Barrowclough report will almost certainly pass censure on the DTI, on the grounds that the department was too slow to react when other authorities, including the Bank of England, the Stock Exchange and Nasdin, were making warning noises about the Barlow Clowes operation.

A large number of people lost a great deal of money at the hands of Barlow Clowes and the investors have banded into a highly effective pressure group, one which organized a "write-in" to this newspaper recently once it became clear that the Ombudsman's report was finally

ready for publication. They will be satisfied with nothing less than compensation, for while a censure on the DTI might give them a warm glow of justification, it will not pay the bills which have gone unpaid since the collapse.

Lord Young, on his feet in Parliament, declared in October, 1988, that the Government had no legal liability to investors and added that the Le Quesne report exposed weaknesses in the legislative framework rather than shortcomings in his department. This assertion is not supported by Sir Godfrey, who wrote to Lord Young that "no implication either of censure or approval should be read into my report, nor any judgement of anybody's conduct."

But on his own assessment, Lord Young could see no grounds for using taxpayers' money to make an *ex gratia* payment to the luckless investors. Such payments, it was concluded, would more properly fall to the intermediaries who put their clients' money into Barlow Clowes in exchange for fees and commissions. The Ombudsman's report is likely to change all that. Once compensation has been agreed, perhaps the ghost of Barlow Clowes can cease ranting its chains and be laid peacefully to rest. And then maybe the letters will stop filling our mailbags.

BA banking on Brussels

British Airways has nailed down another plank of its long-term corporate plan through the link with Sabena, the Belgian national carrier and the Dutch airline, KLM. It is a far-sighted move, or possibly a pre-emptive strike. Certainly it is likely to be resisted by other European carriers.

The move will also raise objections from smaller carriers anxious to boost their own business in Europe. Such complaints will doubtless be made in the name of competition, but in reality they are rooted in anti-competitive old-style attitudes which still infect the heavily-regulated European aviation business.

There are few carriers in Europe which would welcome tooth and claw competition against a company such as British Airways, with its immensely strong international route network and high levels of operational efficiency. It is no accident that liberalization of European skies has been much slower to develop than in the United States.

The early signs are that the regulators in Brussels, who have been informally kept in touch with the Sabena deal, are disposed to wave it

through. If Brussels does give the go-ahead, it will be laying down a milestone pointing to further freedom of the air.

In the short run, the Sabena/KLM link is not significant for BA in financial terms. The £34 million to be handed over for a 20 per cent share of the recapitalized Sabena is little more than a tenth of the cash raised in its recent rights issue. In revenue terms, there will be no benefit in year one, perhaps break-even in year two, and modest profits thereafter.

But further out, the cash of BA and KLM, which is also taking a 20 per cent stake in Sabena, and their marketing skills, may enable the Belgian carrier to develop a potent "hub and spoke" business based on Brussels, but not until much work has been done to beef up Sabena's fleet and marketing efforts. The three partners would be well placed to take advantage of further moves towards liberalization at the expense of Air France and Lufthansa.

For BA though, the more important corporate moves are yet to come in the US and the Far East. For the moment, the original United Airlines agreement remains in place and works well. A cementing of that commercial arrangement via some form of cross-shareholding is not ruled out.

BP reorganizes its US side

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

BP has created a subsidiary to handle its oil and gas production and exploration onshore in the United States, leaving control of the big oilfields in Alaska and in the Gulf of Mexico with BP North America. The new company, TEX/CON, will be among the top 10 US oil companies and based in Texas. It is being built around the Lear oil and gas operation acquired by BP a year ago.

BP will have a majority on its board. The move is part of BP's worldwide exploration

restructuring programme and designed to provide more flexibility in operating in the US. Mr William Johnson, its president, said that the decision to create a new, independent company made sense in the competitive US domestic environment.

He said: "The cost structure and operating philosophy of an independent is much more appropriate for conducting business in the lower 48 states. One can't operate effectively here with the systems, procedures and corporate culture

required to manage large assets in Alaska and the North Sea. Independent from BP, TEX/CON will be low cost and quickly responsive to changing business conditions."

"We have a flat management structure, designed for quick decisions and a lot of interaction between management and employees at all levels. Our cash flow is strong and our employees experienced in our operating areas, so, when opportunities are identified, we can move on them quickly and decisively."

Management shake-up at Colonnade

Colonnade Development Capital plans to bring in the management team of British & Commonwealth Development Capital, the company's investment manager.

Colonnade reported pre-tax revenue of £287,000 in the year to end-October, compared with £93,000 for the seven months to end-October 1988. Earnings per share rise from 1.67p to 4.68p. Total dividend for the year is 3.2p, against 1.2p for the seven-month period.

Buyout boon

It is an ill wind which blows no good but Peter Riddell and Charles Henegge, who run Lloyd's insurance broker Hadley Cannon, would have found that hard to believe four months ago when their Australian backer, the Duke Group, went into receivership. "It happened just when we had spent 18 months turning the broking business around from losses of £1 million to break-even," says Henegge, the managing director. "But then we started negotiating with the liquidators to do a management buyout and managed to get a lot knocked off the price. We then found we had five liquidators to negotiate with and it all took three or four months, but the saving on the price of the business more than covered the legal fees."

The £3 million buyout was completed on Monday, with 60 per cent of the money coming from Globe Investment Trust and Ivory & Sims, and Henegge says that they are now ready to make acquisitions. "We are interested in other insurance brokers but we will look at other financial services businesses as well."

Businessmen sometimes question the value of the public relations profession, but there is surely a case for them to improve the external relations of those "insiders". Clearly believing this to be so - and who would dare disagree with them - the Krys have just appointed a PR firm to handle the promotion of a book they are planning to publish.

Carol Leonard

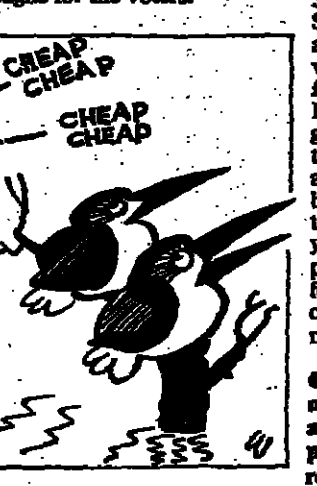
Robinson resists call of the bar

Mark Robinson, an executive director of merchant bank Leopold Joseph, and a barrister by profession, has been chosen as the official Conservative candidate for the safe Tory seat of Somerset and Frome. Robinson, aged 42, whose father was once chairman of paper group DRG - his great-grandfather invented the paper bag and founded EF&A Robinson, which went on to become the "R" in DRG - says he is "extremely confident" that he will win. The seat is due to be vacated at the next election, when the incumbent, Robert Boscaawen - who had a 9,500 majority, representing 53 per cent of the vote - retires. "I never like to use the term 'safe seat' but it is certainly a good seat," says Robinson. "and I am delighted to be selected." If he is successful, Robinson, who also once worked at the UN and the Commonwealth Secretariat, will be no stranger to Parliament. He was the MP for Newport West from 1983-87, serving as under secretary of state at the Welsh Office during his last two years, before losing to Labour. And moving to the West country will, he says, "be like going home." "I was born in Bristol and brought up in Easton-in-Gordano, which was part of Somerset and is now in Avon." In his election campaign he will, however, be careful not to succumb to the same fate as his great-grandfather. "He was elected

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Taken over by events

Just two weeks ago Michael Hington, the permanently sun-tanned boss of public relations firm Paragon Communications, was talking romantically about the three-week South Sea Islands honeymoon that was to follow his wedding next Thursday to one of his employees, Julia Barker. Then one of his biggest clients, Kingfisher, unveiled its bid for Dixons, and everything had to be shelved. "The wedding is going ahead but the honeymoon will have to wait," says Hington, aged 41, heroically. "We both worked through the previous bid - when Dixons bid for Woolworths, as it was then called - and didn't want to miss this one." He then suggested, however, that perhaps the four would have to be renegotiated...



"Definitely not Kingfisher - sounds more like Dixons."

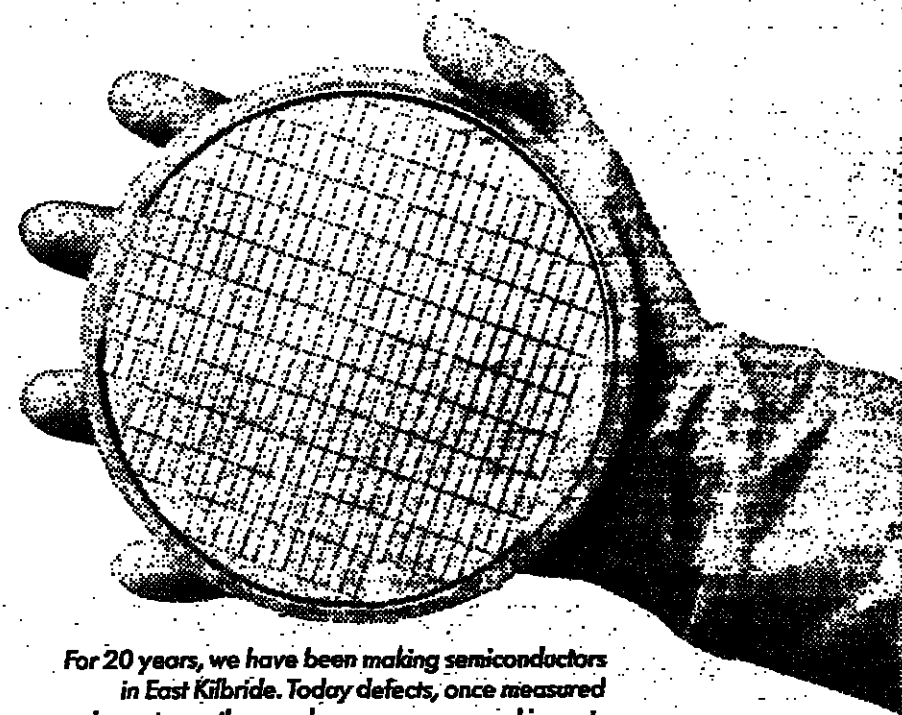
Top drawer

If you want to get ahead in the artistic world of illustrators, it clearly helps if you've had your work published in WH Smith's annual report. WH Smith, which sponsors the top award for illustrators, this week gave the first prize of £3,000 to Australian-born Jeff Fisher while Peter Brooks was given a "distinguished mention". "Purely coincidentally," a spokesman told us, both had been commissioned to draw illustrations for last year's WH Smith annual report. "Fisher won the award for an illustration on the cover of *New Scientist*," the spokesman says.

With the hangover season upon us, it is interesting that as long ago as 235 AD the philosopher Advhemus was recommending cabbage water as a cure for the morning-after-the-night-before.

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Every advance in quality raises new expectations. The company that is satisfied with its progress will soon find its customers are not. It is this belief that has spurred Motorola to a 100-fold improvement in quality since 1981. ■ Our formula is a simple one: First, we banish complacency. Second, we set heroic goals that compel new thinking. Finally, we "raise the bar" as we near each goal, and set it out of reach all over again. ■ Today, Motorola's standard is Six Sigma quality, and we aim for only 3.4 defects per million pieces in all we do by 1992. Such standards are naturally appreciated by Rolls-Royce, the arch perfectionists, who have chosen us as their sole supplier of car phones. ■ Total customer satisfaction, our goal, is now on the horizon. We dare not rest in its pursuit.



For 20 years, we have been making semiconductors in East Kilbride. Today defects, once measured in parts per thousand, are now measured in parts per million. Our goal is Six Sigma quality.



Motorola were one of the first to be awarded Ford Europe's prestigious Q1 preferred quality award for our ESC2 ignition timing component.

defects per million pieces in all we do by 1992. Such standards are naturally appreciated by Rolls-Royce, the arch perfectionists, who have chosen us as their sole

supplier of car phones. ■ Total customer satisfaction, our goal, is now on the horizon. We dare not rest in its pursuit.

Building On Beliefs



MOTOROLA

Kalms unruffled by Kingfisher 'flyer'

The chairman of Dixons Group is an unshakeable optimist. Under fierce attack from an old adversary and suffering from the economic downturn, he has no hesitation in assuring David Brewerton that his company is in terrific shape

Like most retailers, and all property developers, Stanley Kalms is an eternal optimist. Even in the teeth of a determined assault on his company, Dixons Group, from Kingfisher, he has no intention of staring defeat in the face.

Mr Kalms maintains he will be able to convince his shareholders "comparatively easily" that the Kingfisher offer is unrealistic.

In the face of Kingfisher's claims that Dixons faces a "bleak future" under the Kalms management, he says that his company is outstandingly successful with a terrific track record and prospects.

Dixons is, he says, a "company in terrific shape suffering only from a known economic reversal, which is not likely to last, in a business which is bound to grow in an industry where the market projections for years ahead are sensational."

The Dixons chairman

clearly has no great love for the City, especially the analysts who first projected unrealistic profits increases and then downgraded them substantially.

His fear is that his investors will be naive enough to sell out to Kingfisher at the bottom of the cycle.

He says: "There is always a moment to sell, but do you sell now? Sell at the bottom, buy at the top does not make a lot of sense to me."

But here, his optimism deserts him for a moment. With a sigh, he accepts that "there is a tendency for shareholders to run for cover very speedily."

The problem at Dixons has been not so much the flagship group, "which is doing modestly well" but Currys.

"The really soft area is white goods. I saw it (the recession) coming. I was the first guy to shout wolf, and was enormously criticized for it. I saw it coming immediately after the crash of 1987.



Looking on the sunny side of the high street: Stanley Kalms sees Dixons as the "original little goldmine"

ly after the crash of 1987. People said I was a Jeremiah, and I'd no right to frighten everybody."

In its comments this week, Kingfisher maintains that when Dixons was already into a downturn, its own Comet operation was still piling up the pluses. "Jeremiah" con-

codes: "It did hit us first."

But the old optimist, fresh from combing his hair for *The Times* photographer, bounces back.

"It cannot go on, but we cannot pinpoint when we will come out. Our projections are towards the middle of next year. The gearing in retailing is

sensational, and 10 per cent on sales comes all the way through to massive profits."

Kingfisher will not be drawn on the prospective timing of the rebound, but the market analysts who get such short shrift in Dixons' Mayfair headquarters would hardly disagree.

There is yet better news. "Margins are northward bound."

They are heading in that direction as benefits of the Currys takeover filter through to the bottom line.

"Currys was in a poor state... the real benefits are now beginning to come

ERF rises to £3.74m ahead of warning

By Philip Pangalos

ERF (Holdings), the independent truck maker, revealed a 41 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £3.74 million.

ERF had given notice in August of the downturn which is currently affecting the British truck market — and is now giving warning of an adverse effect on second-half results because of it.

Mr Peter Foden, the chairman, said the British vehicle market in 1989 exceeded all expectations and continued at record levels until September. Increased interest rates have adversely affected the British truck market and, in common with the commercial vehicle industry, the company is now suffering substantially lower levels of orders and shipments.

Mr Foden said long-term confidence is based on the continuing success of the E-series trucks.

The South African subsidiary performed strongly and a profit increase from the plastics company has been helped by increased technology sales to China.

Turnover in the 26 weeks to end-September was up 23.1 per cent to £88.1 million. Earnings per share fell from 30.32p to 24.13p, after a rise in the tax charge, up from 10.6 to 36.6 per cent. The interim dividend is maintained at 4p.

THE TIMES STOCKWATCH

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Exports hit HK trade prospects

From Lulu Yu, Hong Kong

The decline in exports to some of Hong Kong's leading markets has led economists to take a conservative view on the prospects of trade next year.

The Hang Seng Bank is predicting a 1 per cent to 2 per cent growth for the colony's domestic exports, the same as this year. Re-exports, which rose 24 per cent in the first nine months, are expected to grow much slower in 1990.

The latest trade statistics have been disappointing, despite marked increase in sales to Asian markets. Sharp drops were recorded for domestic exports to Britain and the Netherlands — by 19 per cent and 13 per cent respectively — for October.

Comparing the first 10

months with the same period last year, domestic exports to Britain and the Netherlands fell 4 per cent each — to HK\$12 billion (£960 million) and HK\$3.8 billion respectively.

Those to the United States, Hong Kong's largest market, increased merely 1 per cent to HK\$60 billion.

Overall, the picture is less gloomy. Domestic exports rose 4 per cent to HK\$30.8 billion in October over a year ago, while re-exports rose 20 per cent to HK\$32 billion, bringing total exports to HK\$52.8 billion. In the same period, imports increased 7 per cent to HK\$48.8 billion.

The growth sectors for exports are clearly Taiwan,

which absorbed 58 per cent more domestic exports from Hong Kong, and China, Canada and Singapore. Sales to the three increased 10 per cent, 8 per cent and 7 per cent respectively in October.

Re-exports, or exports using Hong Kong as a transit centre, rose substantially in October — 54 per cent for the US, 47 per cent for Canada, and 26 per cent for Britain. However, re-exports to China, the colony's largest re-export market, fell 9 per cent to HK\$3.3 billion from a year ago.

"The export sector experienced a significant slowdown in 1989 with domestic exports to all the major markets either recording slower growth or outright decline in shipment," said the Hang Seng Bank's

December economic report published yesterday.

It forecast "no significant improvement in the prospects for Hong Kong's export trade" on the back of slowed economic growth in Western countries and stiff retrenchment in China.

The Trade Development Council (TDC), Hong Kong's semi-official trade promotion body, made a similar prediction for exports and added that re-export growth would slow from about 25 per cent in 1989 to about 10 per cent next year.

"The only area where we see continued expansion is southeast Asia including Japan. 1990 will not be a year which will give us export growth," said a TDC report.

Thomas Cook link creates third largest agency in US

From James Bone, New York

Thomas Cook Travel Inc, the US member of the global network acquired in April by Mr Robert Maxwell, has teamed up with two other groups to create the third largest travel agency in the United States.

The New York-based company, which Mr Maxwell bought for an undisclosed sum, is to combine its own operations with those of the Heritage Travel and Crimson Travel Agency organizations, which went into partnership 18 months ago.

The new equally-owned partnership keeps the Thomas Cook name and will have

more than 325 offices across the country with 2,500 employees and annual sales of more than \$1.3 billion (£807 million).

Mr David Paresky, the founder of Crimson Travel, will head the new company.

Mr Paresky, who called the new group "The travel agency of the 90s", said the partnership evolved from the needs of customers for a new kind of travel organization which could, with resources, innovative management and flexibility, rapidly respond to the constant changes in the marketplace.

The merger marks a further

consolidation of the travel business in America.

In the last 18 months, eight of the 15 largest US travel agencies have been merged or sold.

Mr Peter Middleton, head of the London-based Thomas Cook Group with which the new agency will work, said: "We welcome this new company as an essential component of Thomas Cook's global vision of the future of travel services."

Before the merger, Thomas Cook Travel was the eighth largest travel agency in America, with 1988 sales of about \$650 million.

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A war in which the Atari range of business machines has recently made huge advances.

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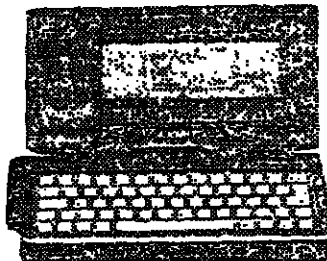
With a memory of 128K RAM (expandable to 640K) and a Lotus 1-2-3 compatible spreadsheet at your fingertips, you can wipe out

mountains of work wherever you are.

When the Portfolio isn't being used as a computer, it makes the perfect personal organiser.

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Eagle Trust investors 'may not see their money again'

By A Correspondent

Investors with the troubled Eagle Trust group were yesterday warned they may not see their money again.

They heard that £54.5 million had been wiped out, and police fraud squads and the new company directors were still trying to trace where £30 million of that had gone.

The investors were also told that court action had begun against Mr John Ferriday, the missing former chief executive, to try to have some of the money returned.

At the annual meeting in Birmingham, a new board, led by Mr David James, was appointed. He outlined a rescue package to keep Eagle Trust in business, which will entail splitting the profitable subsidiaries into three organizations, to ease the burden of bank debts of £93 million at home and £6 million abroad.

Samuelson Group and Cine Holdings Ltd will become a film and television group, and Mitchell Somers, John Sydney and Trio Containers will join in an industrial group. Remaining businesses, which would not easily fit together will be sold off.

Mr James said the new

strategy would keep shareholders involved, with a possible return on their investment; would allow the subsidiaries to prosper, and may lead to their separate flotation. The group's 32,700 shareholders would not be given all their money back.

"Admittedly, any such recovery will be at a very low level and substantially below the equivalent value of the 18p per share at which the shares stood at their suspension.

"Our belief, however, is that shareholders would generally prefer to have some continuing interest in an alternative investment in our well-founded subsidiaries rather than the very uncertain prospect of a meagre distribution on their shares."

He said the new board was determined to retrieve its shareholders' money. "I feel such concern and a sense almost of anger that one would be reluctant to let it go until we have got the last penny back."

The rescue was made possible by the promise of further bank funding until the end of 1990. Mr James hoped to have the restructuring under way by the middle of next year.



"A sense almost of anger": Mr James at the AGM yesterday

Campeau third-quarter loss doubles

New York — Campeau Corporation, which owns Bloomingdale's, Abraham & Straus and seven other department store chains, has reported greater losses for itself and its two retail subsidiaries for the third quarter ended October 31.

Campeau — which is based in Toronto — and its two retail units, Federated Department Stores and Allied Stores, both based in Cincinnati, increased revenues, but debt payments

and competition combined to produce losses. In an effort to raise cash, Campeau has put Bloomingdale's up for sale.

While Campeau, which also develops property in Canada, did not comment on why its revenues rose, analysts said it resulted from a combination of better retail business than a year ago and the opening of several stores.

The company reported all its figures in US dollars. Third-quarter revenues rose

4.9 per cent to \$2.56 billion (£1.59 billion). Revenues for the nine months were up 30.4 per cent to \$7.04 billion. Operating profit in the quarter, however, dropped by 3.8 per cent to \$255 million. But operating profit in the nine months jumped by 55 per cent to \$680 million.

Including debt payments and interest, Campeau had a net loss of \$186 million in the quarter, more than double the loss of \$78 million the year

before. The loss also widened in the nine months, with a deficit of \$377 million in continuing operations against only \$14 million in continuing operations in 1988.

Campeau, which divested itself of many of its Federated and Allied divisions after acquiring them, said the 1989 loss includes after-tax gains on the asset sales of \$101 million, against \$318 million in after-tax gains last time.

(New York Times)

New Bond peace move made by watchdog

From Martin Wain, Sydney

The National Companies and Securities Commission, Australia's corporate watchdog, is trying to engineer a new peace pact between rival businessmen Mr Alan Bond and Mr John Spalvis, aimed at lifting the threat of receivership from Mr Bond's Bell Resources.

The commission's apparent climbdown came hours after it was given the go-ahead by the Perth supreme court to pursue legal moves for winding up Bell.

The commission is threatening to bring down Bell, a key Bond group company, after objecting to an out-of-court agreement between Mr Bond and Mr Spalvis to share board room control.

Mr Spalvis's Adelaide Steamship, which owns 20 per cent of Bell, withdrew its demand for a receiver on Tuesday after Bond Corporation gave it four seats on the Bell board and appointed an independent chairman to replace Mr Bond.

But the commission claimed the deal breached local takeover rules, and it demanded greater representation for other Bell minority shareholders.

The commission said yesterday that talks were being held with Bond and Adelaide "to see if the matter can be resolved in the interests of all parties, including minority shareholders and bond holders, without the need for further litigation."

Adelaide has stepped up pressure on Mr Bond after losing patience with lengthy, but so far fruitless, attempts to sell his Australian breweries.

The sale is Bond Corp's only hope of raising enough cash to repay a controversial A\$1.2 billion (\$588 million) "deposit" received six months ago for its brewing assets from Bell.

Henry Barrett in record £10m buy of Don Reynolds

By Philip Pangalos

Henry Barrett Group, the steel and industrial products company, is acquiring Don Reynolds (Holdings) Ltd for £10.8 million in cash and shares in its biggest purchase so far.

The initial £9.36 million payment will be satisfied by the issue of 3.55 million shares and £800,000 cash. Further issues of shares will satisfy the balance.

Don Reynolds, which designs and manufactures modular flat panel cladding and curtain walling used in steel-framed buildings, made pre-tax profits of £547,000 in the year to end-December 1988, on turnover of £10.1 million. It had net assets of £1.3 million and DRL's vendors have warranted adjusted pre-tax profits of at least £1.8 million for the year to end-December 1989.

This year DRL's contracts have included Heathrow Air-

port Terminal Three and the Royal Bank of Scotland's headquarters in Edinburgh.

In addition, Henry Barrett is placing \$88,974 new ordinary shares to raise £2.04 million to fund the relocation of the DRL business.

The company intends to construct a larger, purpose-built factory with office accommodation near Don Reynolds' existing factory, overcoming production constraints and improving operating efficiencies. This is expected to be fully operational by September.

Mr Richard Barrett, managing director of the steel buildings division, said the acquisition was an important part of the strategy to broaden the group's base and increase resilience in the economic downturn.

The shares climbed by 10p to 257p.

GF Lovell back in profit at half time

By Philip Pangalos

GF Lovell, the USM-listed building products and construction group, is back in the black after June's £20 million worth of acquisitions targeting niche markets in the construction industry.

Pre-tax profits were £127,000 in the six months to end-September, on turnover up from £2 million to £4.64 million, boosted by the construction activities.

Mr Peter Woodman, the chairman and former chief executive of Istock Johnson, the brick maker, said that while the trading outlook was uncertain, demand in the group's markets was holding

up well. This should ensure it is well equipped to cope with any problems ahead.

Earnings per share are 4.9p, against a 6p loss, and a 20p interim dividend will be paid.

The building product companies contributed £252,000 to pre-tax profits in the month since their acquisition.

The original confectionery activity extended its losses from £86,000 to £125,000, after difficult trading conditions over the summer because of falling demand. The Belmor Confectionery buy will provide a boost to sales. The shares eased 5p to 338p.

HK Bank waits on reserves

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation has made no decision about whether its inner reserves will be publicly disclosed. The group said in a statement that it considered it necessary to make this announcement "in view of continuing speculation."

The bank's shares rose 10 cents to HK\$7.35 (59p) at midday after a 20-cent rise on Tuesday.

Market analysts attributed the rally partly to speculation about an early disclosure of inner reserves. Mr William Forves, the chairman, indicated that although he saw merit in the maintenance of inner reserves, he considered it unlikely the bank could resist the growing international trend towards fuller disclosure.

The matter would be discussed by the board at an "appropriate time."

Steel trade to be liberalized

The US announced that leading steel exporters, including the EC and Japan, have agreed to open their markets to US steel by eliminating a range of government supports for domestic production. The countries were the EC, Japan, South Korea, Brazil, Mexico, Australia and Trinidad and Tobago.

Order for BAe

British Aerospace has won an order worth \$40 million (£25 million) for three Advanced Turboprop aeroplanes from Biman, the flag-carrying airline of Bangladesh.

IEL advice

Sir Ronald Brierley, the former chairman of Industrial Equity Ltd, said in Sydney that shareholders should not sell all their stakes to the Adelaide Steamship group, which now has control.

Chinese company acquires 26.6% Dragonair stake

From Loh Yu, Hong Kong

A Chinese-backed company, which owns 12.5 per cent of Cathay Pacific Airways, has agreed to buy a 26.6 per cent stake in Dragonair, Hong Kong's second airline.

The acquisition by China International Trust and Investment Corporation (Citic), Peking's investment arm in Hong Kong, offers scope for co-operation between the loss-making Dragonair and Cathay, the Swire-owned flagship carrier.

Dragonair has suffered losses of at least HK\$400 million (£32 million) since its inception in 1985, and is still struggling to compete with Cathay Pacific for routes and air rights.

Its former main shareholder, Sir YK Pao, last month sold his 37.8 per cent stake to his Hong Kong partners, the Chao family, and relinquished all ties with the airline in his second retreat

this year. In June, he sold a 9.95 per cent interest in Standard Chartered at an estimated loss of US\$108 million (\$68 million).

Sir YK's withdrawal from Dragonair left the Chao family with 65 per cent. The rest is held mainly by a Chinese company, Hong Kong and Macau International Investment (HKMI).

HKMI has agreed to sell a 26.6 per cent shareholding to Citic for an undisclosed sum.

Citic bought 12.5 per cent of Cathay from Swire Pacific last year in a move which surprised the business community.

With the company's cross-shareholding in the two airlines, it is expected that Dragonair may be allowed a larger niche of Hong Kong's expanding aviation market.

Dragonair, capitalized at about HK\$600 million, flies to several, largely secondary destinations in Asia.

Philips in Japan link

Tokyo (Reuters) — Matsushita and Philips of Holland are to set up a joint British company to promote and develop devices enabling one remote controller to control different entertainment systems.

The devices are called Domestic Digital Bus or D2B. The capitalization of D2B

System Company — which is to be set up early next year — and the ownership have not yet been decided, although Philips may own more than half. Philips plans to sell television sets and video-tape recorders with D2B in Europe and Matsushita is considering this in Japan.

The people who brought you combination cooking, now bring you peace of mind.

IT'S TRUE.

In 1983 Brother were the first to take a microwave oven and a conventional oven and merge the two successfully for domestic use.

This allows the simultaneous use of microwave energy and re-circulating hot air. The result is perfectly cooked food in a fraction of the time it would take a conventional oven, beautifully browned and crisped.

There was another benefit that came from this pioneering step.

The Brother oven was the only one that could use metal baking trays and dishes and produce a perfect result.

A true leap forward in microwave technology.

COOK-CHILLED FOODS.

Today, however, there seems to be some concern about the ability of microwave ovens to re-heat cook-chilled foods safely.

So just what are the facts?

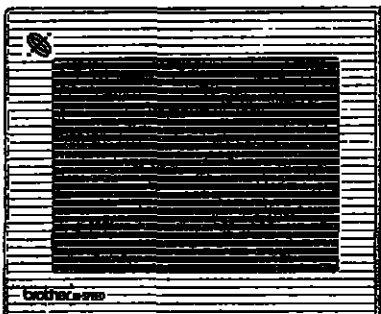
Following preliminary tests last summer, the Minister for Agriculture, John Gummer, ordered an in-depth study into the performance of microwave ovens when re-heating pre-cooked chilled foods.

Various microwave ovens were chosen at random by the AFRC Institute of Food Research and sent to their Bristol laboratory for testing.

The two Brother models chosen were in actual fact

combination ovens, but were tested using 'microwave' only.

Food was placed directly on the turntable and heated and at no time was



the food stirred, contrary to the user instructions. The required temperature was 70°C and the Brother machines achieved borderline results.

RE-TESTS SHOW OVER 90°C.

Since then independent research commissioned by Brother through the same body that carried out the original tests (AFRC) has re-created the previous conditions exactly, but following our instructions for re-heating.

The Brother MF3200 and MF1200 used with the insulating mat placed on the turntable, not only achieved a temperature of 70°C but exceeded it by a distance, in fact it reached 90°C and above.

(Insulating Mat supplied as standard equipment with every Combination Cooker.)

With these cookers we recommend using Hi-speed Combination setting to re-heat, which operates at even higher temperatures.

ALL BROTHER OVENS ARE SAFE.

In short, all Brother microwaves and combination cookers are perfectly safe when used together with the following instructions, and a good helping of common sense.

- When re-heating cook-chilled foods on 'microwave only' mode use the insulating mat on the

turntable. This allows microwave energy to distribute evenly throughout the food.

- The food manufacturer's cooking time should be used as a guide only. If, when the stated cooking time has expired, the food isn't piping hot, return it to the oven and cook it until it is. In much the same manner as you would when cooking with a conventional oven.
- Always stir food regularly, particularly sauces and casseroles.
- Standing time is very important, it is part of the cooking process and also allows an even temperature throughout the food.

A few simple rules of thumb, but tremendously important.

Brother have a definitive guide to re-heating pre-cooked chilled foods which will dispel any fears you may still have.

Call the Brother hotline 061 330 6531, or write to Dept. M, Brother Domestic

Appliance Division, Jones + Brother, Shepley Street, Audenshaw, Manchester M34 5JD.

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BAGGERIDGE BRICK PLC

RESULTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1989

Turnover up 36%

Turnover increased from £24.96 million to £33.87 million.

Pre-tax profits up 29%

Increased pre-tax profits for ninth consecutive year — up from £7.54 million to £9.71 million.

Dividends up 25%

Final dividend 9½% making 12½% for the year.

Earnings per share up 28%

Earnings per share increased from 12.41p to 15.92p.

Copies of the illustrated report and accounts for the year ended 30th September, 1989 will be available after 24th January 1990 from the Secretary, Baggeridge Brick PLC, Gospel End, Sedgley, Dudley, West Midlands DY3 4AA.

Unilever in line to purchase Maybelline

From James Bone
New York

Unilever is being viewed as a likely purchaser of Maybelline, the US cosmetics business being sold by Schering-Plough Corporation.

Speculation about Unilever's interest has been circulating in Maybelline's Memphis headquarters for more than a week and on Tuesday Schering-Plough announced it is seeking offers for the business, which had 1988 sales of about \$280 billion (£174 billion).

Neither Unilever, United States, the US arm, nor Schering-Plough would comment.

Other possible bidders include L'Oréal, the French cosmetics company, and Shiseido, of Japan.

Unilever has been on an acquisition binge, putting up \$1.5 billion last summer in deals for Fabergé (including Elizabeth Arden) and Minnetonka (which includes Calvin Klein Cosmetics).

It is thought to have stepped up its interest in Maybelline after Procter & Gamble, its rival, took over Noxell for \$1.3 billion, winning Cover Girl products among other trophies. In July, Schering-Plough sold its two European cosmetics companies, Rimmel International and Chicago, to Unilever.

Industry urged to adopt 'green' code of practice

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Industry is facing close inspection on "green" issues and must come up with something more than mere marketing tactics in order to tackle them.

This warning has come from Mr Alistair Graham, director of the Industrial Society.

In a message to industrialists, he said companies will face a "consumer backlash" if only lip service is paid to public concern about the environment.

He urged companies to draw up their own "green" codes of practice.

There were three reasons why a genuine concern for the environment made sense for business, he said.

As recruitment problems grew, young people, and especially graduates, would increasingly decide against working for companies with a bad environmental record.

Staff were also "potential whistle-blowers" if companies failed to live up to their claims on green issues.

More positive community involvement could give companies a core of goodwill when a sensitive environmental issue arose, he added.

Mr Graham urged companies to draw up a code of ethics by which they were willing to be judged on cor-

porate behaviour. This meant auditing all policies and practices which impinged on environmental concerns leading to a specific code of practice.

That, Mr Graham added, needed to be monitored regularly at board level.

Training and explanation would be needed so that staff could help implement the code. It would also involve training to ensure equipment and materials were used in order to safeguard the environment as well as the staff themselves.

Environmental issues and how the company was able to respond to them needed to be built into customer care training, said Mr Graham.

He added: "If shop assistants and sales teams cannot answer customers' queries about the environmental impact of goods, environmentally-friendly labels will carry little weight."

Senior managers should be trained to cope with addressing difficult public meetings and the media about environmental issues, Mr Graham suggested.

He added: "The increasingly-high profile of environmental concerns will lead to calls for greater corporate openness."



Alistair Graham: 'genuine concern makes sense for business'

Baggeridge shakes off the gloom with £9.7m

By Martin Waller

Baggeridge Brick, one of the country's few remaining independent brickmakers, has reported its ninth successive year of rising sales and profit, with pre-tax earnings up by 29 per cent to £9.72 million.

Turnover rose by 36 per cent to £33.87 million. A 2.375p final dividend makes 3.125p, against 2.5p.

Mr Peter Ward, the chairman, said the figures were particularly satisfactory considering the falling demand for housing bricks in the second half. Investment in commercial and industrial brick production at Kingsbury and Sedgley led to an increase in market share, which remained strong with buoyant orders. This more than compensated for reduced housing demand and start-up costs at the Waresley factory, he said.

Construction at Waresley had been completed ahead of schedule but because of the housing downturn this potential had not been fully exploited, said Mr Ward.

"Next year may be more difficult, but there is an overwhelming need for an acceleration in the housing programme," he added.

Substandard housing in many inner cities would ultimately force an increase in public sector housing construction.

Sunny summer pulls in £3.9m at Fuller Smith

By Michael Tate, Deputy City Editor

Fuller Smith & Turner, brewer of London Pride, and owner of 160 pubs and 60 wine and spirits shops, all within 35 miles of its Chiswick home, pulled substantially more pints during the long, hot summer, particularly of its fast-growing K2 lager.

Group turnover improved from £25.9 million to £28.8 million, and pre-tax profits rose from £3.4 million to £3.9 million.

Earnings per share were 16 pence higher, at 10.34p, encouraging an increase in the interim dividend from 1.55p to 1.86p, although part of the rise is to reduce the difference between the two payments.

Helped by the exceptional summer, volume sales of group beers, and purchased products, rose substantially. Mr AC Curtis, finance director, said, although he declined to put a figure on the advance.

His comments contrast with some other brewers, who found that the hot weather drove customers out of their pubs.

April, May and June of 1988 brought atrocious weather, he recalled. This year sales climbed, "although by August customers wanted anything but alcohol." He added that a hard winter, after

two mild years, could have "quite an impact."

Fullers, which launched its own low-alcohol draught beer this week, says a major contributor to growth was K2 lager, which has overtaken the group's strong beer, ESB, to become its second biggest seller, although it is still not challenging London Pride.

Like other regional brewers Fullers is looking forward to lucrative deals with the majors in the expanded free trade. "We are looking forward to the 'guest beer' era with a fair degree of relish," Mr Curtis says.

However, the group is not rushing into hasty agreements. It believes there will be a price war in the early days, "and part of London Pride's value is its uniqueness."

Fullers is also in the market for more pubs, although it would be reluctant to move beyond its present 35-mile radius at this stage.

Any further, and the overheads begin to soar, Mr Curtis believes. He does not rule out the possible purchase of a chain if one came on offer, "but we have not liked anything we have seen so far."

The shares were unchanged at 380p.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Option	Call	Put	Option	Call	Put
ABD (1987)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (1987)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (1988)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (1988)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (1989)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (1989)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (1990)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (1990)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (1991)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (1991)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (1992)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (1992)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (1993)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (1993)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (1994)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (1994)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (1995)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (1995)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (1996)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (1996)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (1997)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (1997)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (1998)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (1998)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (1999)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (1999)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2000)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2000)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2001)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2001)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2002)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2002)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2003)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2003)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2004)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2004)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2005)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2005)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2006)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2006)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2007)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2007)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2008)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2008)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2009)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2009)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2010)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2010)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2011)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2011)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2012)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2012)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2013)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2013)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2014)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2014)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2015)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2015)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2016)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2016)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2017)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2017)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2018)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2018)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2019)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2019)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2020)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2020)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2021)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2021)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2022)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2022)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2023)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2023)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2024)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2024)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2025)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2025)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2026)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2026)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2027)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2027)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2028)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2028)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2029)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2029)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2030)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2030)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2031)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2031)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2032)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2032)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2033)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2033)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2034)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2034)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2035)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2035)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2036)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2036)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2037)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2037)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2038)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2038)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2039)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2039)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2040)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2040)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2041)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2041)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2042)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2042)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2043)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2043)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2044)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2044)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2045)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2045)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2046)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2046)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2047)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2047)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2048)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2048)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2049)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2049)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2050)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2050)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2051)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2051)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2052)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2052)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18
ABD (2053)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75 4 11 18	ABD (2053)	420 85 102 107 11 4 9	480 48 70 75

STOCK MARKET

Institutional seller pulls rug from under STC share price

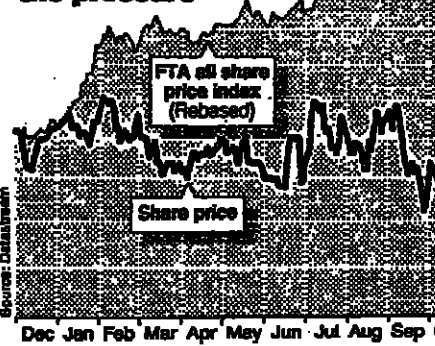
Shares of STC, which owns ICL, Britain's biggest computer manufacturer, went into a nosedive in late trading, tumbling 15p to 255p and wiping almost £85 million from the group's stock market value which was £1.5 billion at the start of trading.

One institution is said to have tried to sell 7.5 million shares, or 1.5 per cent of the company. But market-makers blocked the attempt by marking the STC price sharply lower. A total of 4.8 million shares had been traded by the close of business.

This follows a presentation given by the company in Edinburgh this week for Scottish institutions. Disappointed analysts said that nothing new had emerged from the meeting which followed one in London last week. The STC price has been weak despite persistent whispers around the Square Mile that it wants to sell ICL.

Meanwhile, the newly-privatized water companies continued to generate interest with most of them managing to shave aside an early bout of profit-taking to extend Tuesday's gains. Turnover slipped from Tuesday's high levels with 93.6 million shares traded. This compares with a total for the entire market of 531.8 million.

BERISFORD INTERNATIONAL: Goodman turns up the pressure



Gains were seen Anglian Water, 1p to 149½p, North West, 4p to 139p, Southern, 4p to 145p, South West, 2½p to 149½p, Thames, 1½p to 137½p, Welsh Water, 1p to 142p, Yorkshire, 1½p to 150½p. Meanwhile, Severn Trent ended all-square at 131p, while falls were seen in Northumbria, 1p to 156p and Wessex, 1p to 153p. The water package, consisting of 1,000 shares made up of all 10 companies, advanced by £20 to £1.415 with 67,000 units traded.

Conditions in the rest of the equity market were subdued with prices continuing to be squeezed steadily higher because of the thin conditions. Dealers said that sentiment

had benefited from the success of the water sell-off and they were confident that the FTSE 100 index would soon breach the 2,400 level. It closed last night near its best level with a rise of 22.7 to 2,386.2. The FT 30 index also added 18.6 to 1,880.1.

Government securities reflected a weaker pound, ending with falls stretching to ½% at the longer end.

Berisford International, the commodity broker and food group, jumped 9p to 161p on the news that Mr Larry Goodman, the Irish businessman, had been adding to his holding. He has bought 9.67 million shares, which went through the market late on Tuesday night. This takes his



Goodman: Berisford stake lifted to nearly 12 per cent

total holding to 57.68 million shares, or 11.80 per cent, worth an estimated £92 million.

Mr Goodman has always played his cards close to his chest but hopes remain high that he will eventually launch a full bid for Berisford. Takeover hopes also enabled Western Motors, the importer of Lada cars, to extend its recent recovery, adding 27p to 600p, after touching 610p. Last month, the price touched 850p but was virtually halved when the proposed management buyout collapsed. The speculators are now talking about a bid of about 600p a share which would value the company at £72 million.

Reuters, the international news agency and financial information group, was squeezed 71p higher to £10.91. Traders blame the sharp rise on an acute shortage of ADRs in New York which has spilled over into London. They say that attempts by Reuters in recent months to woo American investors with a number of presentations appears to be paying dividends.

Read International sported a rise of 12p to 451p with investors excited by this week's agreed bid of £56.1 million for Builder Group, the specialist publisher, by CEP Communication, the French publisher. The exit p/c for Builder is estimated at 33 times' earnings. Builder is being compared to Reed because of their interests in specialist-magazine publications.

Fergabrook, the USM toy manufacturer, looks like starting 1990 in fine style. Yesterday, the group began production of leather footballs at its new plant near Moscow. It hopes to produce more than 2 million a year for Iron Curtain countries. The deal with the Russians was struck several months ago and included a new plant staffed by local labour. The first production run turned out 500 footballs.

Thames Television, the independent contractor, jumped 19p to 522p on revived bid talk. The speculation was spiced with European buying of the shares. Once again, the name of Carlton Communications, the fast-growing television and video services group headed by Mr Michael Green, has been mentioned as a suitor.

Carlton is believed to be on the look-out for a television contractor and has already had informal talks with Thames.

The Carlton share price has been in a nosedive this week with the market disappointed by recent figures, showing pre-tax profits up from £49 million to £112 million and the decision of Mr Green to reduce his holding by 1.3 million shares. It rallied by 6p to 834p yesterday.

Michael Clark

TOKYO

Overseas buying lifts index to record

(Reuters) — Prices climbed to records, piercing the 38,000 mark in moderate trading, buoyed by foreign arbitrageurs' buying. The Nikkei index soared 258.89 points, or 0.68 per cent, to a record 38,062.42.

Turnover was about 800 million shares, matching the volume on Tuesday. The Nikkei again defied fears of overheating and several traders predicted that the market would rise further, possibly until next year, fuelled by year-end shopping spree.

A flurry of speculative and fast-profit buying in the morning settled into buying based on fundamentals.

High-priced electrical shares were bought. Mr Tadashi Kawakami, a senior trader at Merrill Lynch Japan, said: "Finally, we're seeing stocks move on fundamentals."

A trader at BZW Securities (Japan), said: "People are still worried about currency and interest rates and the market is over-bought, but the Nikkei keeps moving forward."

High-priced electrical shares were scooped up in active trading as investors searched for strong performance laggards. Electronics companies were also attractive as market laggards, traders said.

Sharp, Oki Electric, Sanyo Electric and Alps Electric figured among the 10 most actively traded companies.

Sharp jumped to a record as did Aiwa in the morning before sagging slightly. Some traders said that Aiwa, which has rallied for two days, drew speculative and political money, based on its good results.

Investors seeking fundamentally sturdy issues also bought Toho, a high-priced theatre manager, the producer of a new *Godzilla* film and said to be rich in land assets.

Frankfurt — The DAX index of West Germany's 30 leading shares hit its lows for the day at about 1,630.20, but recovered to close at 1,638.54, off 14.53 points. Shares slid sharply in moderate trading, pulled down by uncertainty about the dollar, which fell to lows near DM1.70 overnight.

WALL STREET

Profit-taking clips oils but Dow ahead

New York (Reuters) — Blue chips extended Tuesday's gains in late-morning trading but the general market was muted on profit-taking. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 5 points at 2,757.13 but rising shares were about level with falling ones.

Oil issues, which led a market rally on Tuesday, were hit by profit-taking. Among the active issues, Exxon was unchanged at 57½, Texaco was up ¼ to 30½, and Unocal was up ¼ to 30½. All three had showed moderate, early gains.

Spotify — The All-Ordinary index finished 7.5 points at 1,615.2.

Dec 14	Dec 13	Dec 12	Dec 11	Dec 10	Dec 9	Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	Nov 30	Nov 29	Nov 28	Nov 27	Nov 26	Nov 25	Nov 24	Nov 23	Nov 22	Nov 21	Nov 20	Nov 19	Nov 18	Nov 17	Nov 16	Nov 15	Nov 14	Nov 13	Nov 12	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 9	Nov 8	Nov 7	Nov 6	Nov 5	Nov 4	Nov 3	Nov 2	Nov 1	Oct 31	Oct 30	Oct 29	Oct 28	Oct 27	Oct 26	Oct 25	Oct 24	Oct 23	Oct 22	Oct 21	Oct 20	Oct 19	Oct 18	Oct 17	Oct 16	Oct 15	Oct 14	Oct 13	Oct 12	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 9	Oct 8	Oct 7	Oct 6	Oct 5	Oct 4	Oct 3	Oct 2	Oct 1	Sept 30	Sept 29	Sept 28	Sept 27	Sept 26	Sept 25	Sept 24	Sept 23	Sept 22	Sept 21	Sept 20	Sept 19	Sept 18	Sept 17	Sept 16	Sept 15	Sept 14	Sept 13	Sept 12	Sept 11	Sept 10	Sept 9	Sept 8	Sept 7	Sept 6	Sept 5	Sept 4	Sept 3	Sept 2	Sept 1	Aug 31	Aug 30	Aug 29	Aug 28	Aug 27	Aug 26	Aug 25	Aug 24	Aug 23	Aug 22	Aug 21	Aug 20	Aug 19	Aug 18	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15	Aug 14	Aug 13	Aug 12	Aug 11	Aug 10	Aug 9	Aug 8	Aug 7	Aug 6	Aug 5	Aug 4	Aug 3	Aug 2	Aug 1	July 31	July 30	July 29	July 28	July 27	July 26	July 25	July 24	July 23	July 22	July 21	July 20	July 19	July 18	July 17	July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 8	July 7	July 6	July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1	June 30	June 29	June 28	June 27	June 26	June 25	June 24	June 23	June 22	June 21	June 20	June 19	June 18	June 17	June 16	June 15	June 14	June 13	June 12	June 11	June 10	June 9	June 8	June 7	June 6	June 5	June 4	June 3	June 2	June 1	May 31	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26	May 25	May 24	May 23	May 22	May 21	May 20	May 19	May 18	May 17	May 16	May 15	May 14	May 13	May 12	May 11	May 10	May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 3	May 2	May 1	April 30	April 29	April 28	April 27	April 26	April 25	April 24	April 23	April 22	April 21	April 20	April 19	April 18	April 17	April 16	April 15	April 14	April 13	April 12	April 11	April 10	April 9	April 8	April 7	April 6	April 5	April 4	April 3	April 2	April 1	March 31	March 30	March 29	March 28	March 27	March 26	March 25	March 24	March 23	March 22	March 21	March 20	March 19	March 18	March 17	March 16	March 15	March 14	March 13	March 12	March 11	March 10	March 9	March 8	March 7	March 6	March 5	March 4	March 3	March 2	March 1	February 28	February 27	February 26	February 25	February 24	February 23	February 22	February 21	February 20	February 19	February 18	February 17	February 16	February 15	February 14	February 13	February 12	February 11	February 10	February 9	February 8	February 7	February 6	February 5	February 4	February 3	February 2	February 1	January 31	January 30	January 29	January 28	January 27	January 26	January 25	January 24	January 23	January 22	January 21	January 20	January 19	January 18	January 17	January 16	January 15	January 14	January 13	January 12	January 11	January 10	January 9	January 8	January 7	January 6	January 5	January 4	January 3	January 2	January 1	December 31	December 30	December 29	December 28	December 27	December 26	December 25	December 24	December 23	December 22	December 21	December 20	December 19	December 18	December 17	December 16	December 15	December 14	December 13	December 12	December 11	December 10	December 9	December 8	December 7	December 6	December 5	December 4	December 3	December 2	December 1	November 30	November 29	November 28	November 27	November 26	November 25	November 24	November 23	November 22	November 21	November 20	November 19	November 18	November 17	November 16	November 15	November 14	November 13	November 12	November 11	November 10	November 9	November 8	November 7	November 6	November 5	November 4	November 3	November 2	November 1	October 31	October 30	October 29	October 28	October 27	October 26	October 25	October 24	October 23	October 22	October 21	October 20	October 19	October 18	October 17	October 16	October 15	October 14	October 13	October 12	October 11	October 10	October 9	October 8	October 7	October 6	October 5	October 4	October 3	October 2	October 1	September 30	September 29	September 28	September 27	September 26	September 25	September 24	September 23	September 22	September 21	September 20	September 19	September 18	September 17	September 16	September 15	September 14	September 13	September 12	September 11	September 10	September 9	September 8	September 7	September 6	September 5	September 4	September 3	September 2	September 1	August 31	August 30	August 29	August 28	August 27	August 26	August 25	August 24	August 23	August 22	August 21	August 20	August 19	August 18	August 17	August 16	August 15	August 14	August 13	August 12	August 11	August 10	August 9	August 8	August 7	August 6	August 5	August 4	August 3	August 2	August 1	July 31	July 30	July 29	July 28	July 27	July 26	July 25	July 24	July 23	July 22	July 21	July 20	July 19	July 18	July 17	July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 8	July 7	July 6	July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1	June 30	June 29	June 28	June 27	June 26	June 25	June 24	June 23	June 22	June 21	June 20	June 19	June 18	June 17	June 16	June 15	June 14	June 13	June 12	June 11	June 10	June 9	June 8	June 7	June 6	June 5	June 4	June 3	June 2	June 1	May 31	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26	May 25	May 24	May 23	May 22	May 21	May 20	May 19	May 18	May 17	May 16	May 15	May 14	May 13	May 12	May 11	May 10	May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 3	May 2	May 1	April 30	April 29	April 28	April 27	April 26	April 25	April 24	April 23	April 22	April 21	April 20	April 19	April 18	April 17	April 16	April 15	April 14	April 13	April 12	April 11	April 10	April 9	April 8	April 7	April 6	April 5	April 4	April 3	April 2	April 1	March 31	March 30	March 29	March 28	March 27	March 26	March 25	March 24	March 23	March 22	March 21	March 20	March 19	March 18	March 17	March 16	March 15	March 14	March 13	March 12	March 11	March 10	March 9	March 8	March 7	March 6	March 5	March 4	March 3	March 2	March 1	February 28	February 27	February 26	February 25	February 24	February 23	February 22	February 21	February 20	February 19	February 18	February 17	February 16	February 15	February 14	February 13	February 12	February 11	February 10	February 9	February 8	February 7	February 6	February 5	February 4	February 3	February 2	February 1	January 31	January 30	January 29	January 28	January 27	January 26	January 25	January 24	January 23	January 22	January 21	January 20	January 19	January 18	January 17	January 16	January 15	January 14	January 13	January 12	January 11	January 10	January 9	January 8	January 7	January 6	January 5	January 4	January 3	January 2	January 1	December 31	December 30	December 29	December 28	December 27	December 26	December 25	December 24	December 23	December 22	December 21	December 20	December 19	December 18	December 17	December 16	December 15	December 14	December 13	December 12	December 11	December 10	December 9	December 8	December 7	December 6	December 5	December 4	December 3	December 2	December 1	November 30	November 29	November 28	November 27	November 26	November 25	November 24	November 23	November 22	November 21	November 20	November 19	November 18	November 17	November 16	November 15	November 14	November 13	November 12	November 11	November 10	November 9	November 8	November 7	November 6	November 5	November 4	November 3	November 2	November 1	October 31	October 30	October 29	October 28	October 27	October 26	October 25	October 24	October 23	October 22	October 21	October 20	October 19	October 18	October 17	October 16	October 15	October 14	October 13	October 12	October 11	October 10	October 9	October 8	October 7	October 6	October 5	October 4	October 3	October 2	October 1	September 30	September 29	September 28	September 27	September 26	September 25	September 24	September 23	September 22	September 21	September 20	September 19	September 18	September 17	September 16	September 15	September 14	September 13	September 12	September 11	September 10	September 9	September 8	September 7	September 6	September 5	September 4	September 3	September 2	September 1	August 31	August 30	August 29	August 28	August 27	August 26	August 25	August 24	August 23	August 22	August 21	August 20	August 19	August 18	August 17	August 16	August 15	August 14	August 13	August 12	August 11	August 10	August 9	August 8	August 7	August 6	August 5	August 4	August 3	August 2	August 1	July 31	July 30	July 29	July 28	July 27	July 26	July 25	July 24	July 23	July 22	July 21	July 20	July 19	July 18	July 17	July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 8	July 7	July 6	July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1	June 30	June 29	June 28	June 27	June 26	June 25	June 24	June 23	June 22	June 21	June 20	June 19	June 18	June 17	June 16	June 15	June 14	June 13	June 12	June 11	June 10	June 9	June 8	June 7	June 6	June 5	June 4	June 3	June 2	June 1	May 31	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26	May 25	May 24	May 23	May 22	May 21	May 20	May 19	May 18	May 17	May 16	May 15	May 14	May 13	May 12	May 11	May 10	May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 3	May 2	May 1	April 30	April 29	April 28	April 27	April 26	April 25	April 24	April 23	April 22	April 21	April 20	April 19	April 18	April 17	April 16	April 15	April 14	April 13	April 12	April 11	April 10	April 9	April 8	April 7	April 6	April 5	April 4	April 3	April 2	April 1	March 31	March 30	March 29	March 28	March 27	March 26	March 25	March 24	March 23	March 22	March 21	March 20	March 19	March 18	March 17	March 16	March 15	March 14	March 13	March 12	March 11	March 10	March 9	March 8	March 7	March 6	March 5	March 4	March 3	March 2	March 1	February 28	February 27	February 26	February 25	February 24	February 23
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Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this card only. Add them up to give you your daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won a prize. If it does not, follow the prize money stated on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Land Sec (as)	Property	
2	Granada (as)	Television	
3	T & N (as)	Industrial S-Z	
4	Carlson Comm	Telecom	
5	Providence	Banking/Discount	
6	Scotstons	Electricals	
7	Williams Hodge (as)	Electricals	
8	Devis & Newman	Industrial S-Z	
9	Kleinwort Benson	Banking/Discount	
10	Ratners Group	Jewellery	
11	Beattie (James) A	Drugs/Stores	
12	Alcan	Aluminium	
13	Alcan	Aluminium	
14	Auto Sec	Electricals	
15	Wyndham Eng	Industrial S-Z	
16	Fusco	Chemicals/Plas	
17	Marshall	Industrial L-R	
18	Thorn EMI (as)	Drugs/Stores	
19	Quindell Group	Telecom	
20	AIM	Industrial A-D	
21	Warburg SG	Banking/Discount	
22	Mowlem (John)	Building/Roads	
23	Mansfield	Breweries	
24	Wainwright	Paper/Print/Adv	
25	Eden	Industrial E-K	
26	Race Elect (as)	Electricals	
27	Telecom	Telecom	
28	Telecom H (as)	Industrial S-Z	
29	Stannard	Industrial S-Z	
30	Grand Met (as)	Breweries	
31	Bank of Ireland	Banking/Discount	
32	ETS	Industrial E-K	
33	Dowty	Motor/Aircraft	
34	Cable Wireless (as)	Electricals	
35	Courts Planners	Drugs/Stores	
36	Laporte (as)	Chemicals/Plas	
37	Baynes (Charles)	Industrial A-D	
38	Bowthorpe	Electricals	
39	Blue Circle (as)	Building/Roads	
40	Christie	Property	
41	Southend Prop	Property	
42	Rank Org (as)	Industrial L-R	
43	Leisure	Leisure	
44	Leisure	Leisure	

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8.00 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

1989	Low	High	1988	Low	High
1			1		
2			2		
3			3		
4			4		
5			5		
6			6		
7			7		
8			8		
9			9		
10			10		
11			11		
12			12		
13			13		
14			14		
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99			99		
100			100		

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1989	Low	High	1988	Low	High
1			1		
2			2		
3			3		
4			4		
5			5		
6			6		
7			7		
8			8		
9			9		
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99			99		
100			100		

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

1989	Low	High	1988	Low	High
1			1		
2			2		
3			3		
4			4		
5			5		
6			6		
7			7		
8			8		
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93			93		
94			94		
95			95		
96			96		
97			97		
98			98		
99			99		
100			100		

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP							
1989	Low	High	1988	Low	High	1987	1986
Category	Rate	Rate	Category	Rate	Rate	Category	Rate
1	100	100	1	100	100	1	100
2	100	100	2	100	100	2	100
3	100	100	3	100	100	3	100
4	100	100	4	100	100	4	100
5	100	100	5	100	100	5	100
6	100	100	6	100	100	6	100
7	100	100	7	100	100	7	100
8	100	100	8	100	100	8	100
9	100	100	9	100	100	9	100
10	100	100	10	100	100	10	100
11	100	100	11	100	100	11	100
12	100	100	12	100	100	12	100
13	100	100	13	100	100	13	100
14	100	100	14	100	100	14	100
15	100	100	15	100	100	15	100
16	100	100	16	100	100	16	100
17	100	100	17	100	100	17	100
18	100	100	18	100	100	18	100
19	100	100	19	100	100	19	100
20	100	100	20	100	100	20	100
21	100	100	21	100	100	21	100
22	100	100	22	100	100	22	100
23	100	100	23	100	100	23	100
24	100	100	24	100	100	24	100
25	100	100	25	100	100	25	100
26	100	100	26	100	100	26	100
27	100	100	27	100	100	27	100
28	100	100	28	100	100	28	100
29	100	100	29	100	100	29	100
30	100	100	30	100	100	30	100
31	100	100	31	100	100	31	100
32	100	100	32	100	100	32	100
33	100	100	33	100	100	33	100
34	100	100	34	100	100	34	100
35	100	100	35	100	100	35	100
36	100	100	36	100	100	36	100
37	100	100	37	100	100	37	100
38	100	100	38	100	100	38	100
39	100	100	39	100	100	39	100
40	100	100	40	100	100	40	100
41	100	100	41	100	100	41	100
42	100	100	42	100	100	42	100
43	100	100	43	100	100	43	100
44	100	100	44	100	100	44	100
45	100	100	45	100	100	45	100
46	100	100	46	100	100	46	100
47	100	100	47	100	100	47	100
48	100	100	48	100	100	48	100
49	100	100	49	100	100	49	100
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51	100	100	51	100	100	51	100
52	100	100	52	100	100	52	100
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55	100	100	55	100	100	55	100
56	100	100	56	100	100	56	100
57	100	100	57	100	100	57	100
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67	100	100	67	100	100	67	100
68	100	100	68	100	100	68	100
69	100	100	69	100	100	69	100
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94	100	100	94	100	100	94	100
95	100	100	95	100	100	95	100
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97	100	100	97	100	100	97	100
98	100	100	98	100	100	98	100
99	100	100	99	100	100	99	100
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

[illegible]

UNLISTED SECURITIES

1990							1990							1990							1990						
High	Low	Company	Prd	Offer	Chgs	%	High	Low	Company	Prd	Offer	Chgs	%	High	Low	Company	Prd	Offer	Chgs	%	High	Low	Company	Prd	Offer	Chgs	%
44	45	...					115	116	...					115	116	...					115	116	...				
45	46	...					116	117	...					116	117	...					116	117	...				
46	47	...					117	118	...					117	118	...					117	118	...				
47	48	...					118	119	...					118	119	...					118	119	...				
48	49	...					119	120	...					119	120	...					119	120	...				
49	50	...					120	121	...					120	121	...					120	121	...				
50	51	...					121	122	...					121	122	...					121	122	...				
51	52	...					122	123	...					122	123	...					122	123	...				
52	53	...					123	124	...					123	124	...					123	124	...				
53	54	...					124	125	...					124	125	...					124	125	...				
54	55	...					125	126	...					125	126	...					125	126	...				
55	56	...					126	127	...					126	127	...					126	127	...				
56	57	...					127	128	...					127	128	...					127	128	...				
57	58	...					128	129	...					128	129	...					128	129	...				
58	59	...					129	130	...					129	130	...					129	130	...				
59	60	...					130	131	...					130	131	...					130	131	...				
60	61	...					131	132	...					131	132	...					131	132	...				
61	62	...					132	133	...					132	133	...					132	133	...				
62	63	...					133	134	...					133	134	...					133	134	...				
63	64	...					134	135	...					134	135	...					134	135	...				
64	65	...					135	136	...					135	136	...					135	136	...				
65	66	...					136	137	...					136	137	...					136	137	...				
66	67	...					137	138	...					137	138	...					137	138	...				
67	68	...					138	139	...					138	139	...					138	139	...				
68	69	...					139	140	...					139	140	...					139	140	...				
69	70											

● Ex dividend • Ex alt • Forecast dividend • Interim payment passed • Price at suspension • Dividend and yield indicate a special dividend • Pre-emptive figures • Forecast earnings • Ex offer • Ex rights • Ex ratio or share split • Tax-free ... No significant data.

THIRD MARKET

199 24 AM Bank 70 77 ... 1.3 1.0 15

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 96.7 (day's range 96.6-96.8).						
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES						
Market rates for December 13						
	Price	Close	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
New York	1.5365-1.7000	1.5365-1.5675	6.88-0.40/p	2.55-2.48/p		
London	1.5365-1.7000	1.5365-1.5675	6.88-0.40/p	2.55-2.48/p		
Amsterdam	3.1220-3.1288	3.1220-3.1225	11-14p	4% 41p		
Frankfurt	2.7670-2.7710	2.7670-2.7710	20-25p	75-75p		
Copenhagen	10.7050-10.7058	10.7050-10.7058	23-23p	75-75p		
Dublin	1.0487-1.0529	1.0486-1.0506	30-31p	85-75p		
Helsinki	2.7670-2.7710	2.7670-2.7710	19-19p	45-45p		
Lisbon	241.75-245.78	242.57-245.78	11-14p	45-45p		
Madrid	176.88-179.43	177.73-179.82	8-16p	19-25p		
Osaka	265.50-269.17	266.50-269.17	23-23p	75-75p		
Osaka	10.5407-10.5611	10.5407-10.5611	23-23p	75-75p		
Paris	6.4229-6.4345	6.4245-6.4354	31p-31p	8% 81p		
Stockholm	9.9629-9.9629	9.9629-9.9629	31p-31p	8% 81p		
Tokyo	223.85-231.80	222.90-230.12	4% 41p	4% 41p		
Vancouver	19.38-19.54	19.38-19.41	11% 91p	30% 29p		
Zurich	2.5017-2.5017	2.5017-2.5033	1% 14p	4% 41p		

OTHER STERLING RATES	
Argentina sterling	1.597 57-1615.04
Bahia dollar	2.5000-2.5000
Bahrain dollar	0.0010-0.0010
Brazil cruzeiro	12.9990-13.0390
Canada dollar	0.7000-0.7000
Finland markka	6.5250-6.5250
French franc	2.5000-2.5000
German mark	12.5000-12.5000
Indian rupee	27.0000-27.25
Kuwait dirham KD	4.0000-4.0000
Malaysian ringgit	2.5000-2.5000
Mexican peso	4.0000-4.0000
New Zealand dollar	2.5000-2.5000
Philippine peso	2.5000-2.5000
Singapore dollar	3.0000-3.0000
Sri Lanka rand (Rs)	4.5000-4.5000
Taiwan dollar	2.5000-2.5000
US dollar	0.5000-0.5000

DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
United Kingdom	1.5370-1.5385
Singapore	1.5370-1.5380
Malaysia	2.0000-2.0010
Thailand	1.5370-1.5380
Canada	1.0000-1.0010
Sweden	2.5010-2.5010
Denmark	1.5370-1.5380
Germany	1.5370-1.5380
Switzerland	1.5370-1.5380
France	1.5370-1.5380
Japan	1.5370-1.5380
Italy	1.5370-1.5380
Spain	1.5370-1.5380
Portugal	1.5370-1.5380
Greece	1.5370-1.5380
Australia	1.5370-1.5380
South Africa	1.5370-1.5380
India	1.5370-1.5380
China	1.5370-1.5380
Hong Kong	1.5370-1.5380
Taiwan	1.5370-1.5380
Philippines	1.5370-1.5380
Malaysia	1.5370-1.5380
Singapore	1.5370-1.5380
Thailand	1.5370-1.5380
Indonesia	1.5370-1.5380
Brunei	1.5370-1.5380
Maldives	1.5370-1.5380
Myanmar	1.5370-1.5380
Nepal	1.5370-1.5380
Bhutan	1.5370-1.5380
Bangladesh	1.5370-1.5380
Pakistan	1.5370-1.5380
Sri Lanka	1.5370-1.5380
Yemen	1.5370-1.5380
Oman	1.5370-1.5380
UAE	1.5370-1.5380
Qatar	1.5370-1.5380
Bahrain	1.5370-1.5380
Kuwait	1.5370-1.5380
Saudi Arabia	1.5370-1.5380
UAE	1.5370-1.5380
Qatar	1.5370-1.5380
Bahrain	1.5370-1.5380
Kuwait	1.5370-1.5380
Saudi Arabia	1.5370-1.5380
UAE	1.5370-1.5380
Qatar	1.5370-1.5380
Bahrain	1.5370-1.5380
Kuwait	1.5370-1.5380
Saudi Arabia	1.5370-1.5380
UAE	1.5370-1.5380
Qatar	1.5370-1.5380

MONEY MARKETS

Saves Rates vs Clearing Banks 15 Finance Has 10% Discount Market Loans		EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %				
Overnight High 15% - Low 14% - Week Spread: 15		Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
1 mth: 15% - 14% 3 mth: 14% - 13%		Dollar:	8% - 8%	8% - 8%	8% - 8%	8% - 8%
Buying: 2 mth: 14% 3 mth: 14% - 14%		£/S:	8% - 8%	8% - 8%	8% - 8%	8% - 8%
Selling: 2 mth: 14% 3 mth: 14% - 14%		Deutsche:	7 1/2% - 7 1/2%	8-7%	8% - 8%	8% - 8%
1 mth: 15% - 14% 3 mth: 14% - 14%		Swiss:	10% - 10%	10% - 10%	10% - 10%	10% - 10%
2 mth: 14% - 14% 3 mth: 14% - 14%		Italian:	10% - 10%	10% - 10%	10% - 10%	10% - 10%
Trade Rate Discount 1% 1 mth: 10%		Spain:	8-7%	8% - 8%	8% - 8%	8% - 8%
1 mth: 10% - 10% 3 mth: 10% - 10%		France:	7 1/2% - 7 1/2%	8% - 8%	8% - 8%	8% - 8%
Interbank (H): Overnight: open 15% Close 15%		Italy:	8% - 8%	8% - 8%	8% - 8%	8% - 8%
1 mth: 15% - 15% 3 mth: 15% - 15%		Japan:	6% - 6%	6% - 6%	6% - 6%	6% - 6%
1 mth: 15% - 15% 3 mth: 15% - 15%		Canada:	6% - 6%	6% - 6%	6% - 6%	6% - 6%
Local Authority Deposits (H):		Cash:	6-6			
2 mth: 15% 7 day: 15% 1 mth: 15%						
1 mth: 15% 3 mth: 15% 12 mth: 14%						
Selling (H): 1 mth: 15% - 15%						
3 mth: 15% - 15% 6 mth: 14% - 14%						
12 mth: 14% - 14%						
3 mth: 14% - 14% 6 mth: 13% - 13%						
12 mth: 12% - 12%						
Building Society (H):						
1 mth: 13% - 13% 3 mth: 13% - 13%						
6 mth: 14% - 14%						
12 mth: 14% - 14%						

THIRD MARKET

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES						LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES					
Open	High	Low	Close	Vol		Open	High	Low	Close	Vol	
FT-SE 100						Three Month ECU					
Dec 89	2329.0	2360.0	2426.0	Open interest 25802		Mar 90	50.20	50.20	Previous open interest 1131		
Mar 90	2328.0	2340.0	2418.0	2417.0		Mar 90	50.41	50.41	Previous open interest 1131		
Mar 90	2328.0	2340.0	2418.0	2418.0000		Mar 90	50.41	50.41	25.39250		
Three Month Sterling						US Treasury Bond					
Dec 89	90.00	90.00	90.00	Open interest 147930		Mar 90	90-14	90-15	Previous open interest 28000		
Mar 90	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.0000		Mar 90	90-14	90-15	25.39250		
Mar 90	90.00	90.00	90.00	55.6718750		Long Irish Bond					
Three Month Eurodollar						Mar 90	50-04	50-11	Previous open interest 56730		
Dec 89	91.50	91.50	91.50	Open interest 48802		Mar 90	50-04	50-11	50.073300		
Mar 90	91.50	91.50	91.50	91.52250		Japanese Govt Bond					
Mar 90	91.50	91.50	91.50	91.52250		Mar 90	104-04	104-14	Previous open interest 770		
Mar 90	91.50	91.50	91.50	91.52250		Mar 90	104-04	104-14	104.12500		
Three Month Euro DM						German Govt Bond					
Dec 89	91.86	91.86	91.86	Open interest 22857		Mar 90	91-25	91-42	Previous open interest 26970		
Mar 90	91.86	91.86	91.86	91.87500		Mar 90	91-25	91-42	91.875000		
Mar 90	91.86	91.86	91.86	91.87500							

COMMODITIES

[illegible]

TECHNOLOGY



Electronic communication on the move: a long-distance lorry driver maintains contact with his company by phone and fax

Portable phone in every pocket

Personal communications networks have been attracting considerable attention. Planned to start in 1992 or 1993, they promise more advantages than the existing cellular telephone networks but at a far cheaper cost, removing the idea that a portable phone is an accessory only for the busy worker or the well-heeled.

PCNs are an area where Britain has a world lead. The Government has now announced the three consortia, out of the seven bidders that applied, which will be given licences to operate. There may even be five, as the existing cellular operators, Racal Vodafone and British Telecom's subsidiary Cellnet, will be able to turn their services into PCNs if they want.

"Phones are for people, not places," says Arthur Walsh, chairman of STC and also of the consortium, comprising STC, Thorn-EMI, US West — one of the American regional Bell companies — and the Deutsche Bundespost. "We expect PCN to be the most important new consumer service of the next decade."

A small, low cost, personal mobile telephone that the subscriber can carry anywhere will mean people can always be in touch.

Eric Forth, Under Secretary of State for Industry and Consumer Affairs, who announced the licences on Monday, said he expected eventually that the networks may be able to compete on cost with the existing fixed telephone network. Some analysts agree, predicting that there could be 10 million users of portable phones by the end of the 1990s.

Another licence has been granted to Mercury PCN, a consortium of Mercury Communications, the American Motorola and the Spanish Telefonica. In June the Government indicated Mercury would be given one of the licences.

The third licence has been given to a consortium led by British Aerospace, which also includes the American company Pacific Telesis, another Bell operator, French electronics manufacturer Matsushita, UK and Sony. It predicts it will have a network up and running by 1992, with

most of Britain's population covered by 1993, and that each licence holder will see its PCN providing a turnover of £1 billion by the year 2000.

Plans include a portable phone that will eventually cost less than £100 and use a prepaid smart card inserted into a slot in the handset.

If the subscriber does not want to be disturbed, he will be able to switch the phone off, the numbers of people who have called will be displayed when he switches it on again.

The real casualty is likely to be the fledgling telepoint services which have just started to offer cheap mobile communications from a £200 portable phone. The phones are restricted to outgoing calls and subscribers must be within 100 yards of a base station.

But there is a lot to be sorted out. Decisions have to be finalized as to which technologies, or mixture of them, are to be used. The investments will be huge — more than £1 billion by each operator — with profits unlikely before the late 1990s. To provide a global market, other countries must be convinced of a mass market for mobile phones.

But will the planned services really produce mobile services cheaply enough to compete with fixed line telephone rates? The Government has released a much wider range of the radio spectrum, and technological advances mean low-power radio cells will be able to handle far more calls than the current cellular networks, which suffer problems with congestion.

One possible mixture of technologies is a low-power micro network able to handle calls by those remaining in the area covered by one cell, such as pedestrians, but could not handle cars that need to change between cells during a call. "The technology for PCN hasn't been defined yet," says Mel Zizers, a telecommunications consultant. "And though low-power micro networks could be done cheaply, a fully mobile service that can cope with the handing over of calls from one cell to another is still likely to be expensive."

Matthew May

The TV set that will talk to you

Electronic gadgets are being developed that will be able to communicate with each other — and sound the alarm if things go wrong. George Cole reports

The consumer electronics giants Philips and Matsushita announced a new standard for home entertainment equipment. Called D2B (Domestic Digital Bus), it is designed to make electronics items much simpler to use and is likely to be welcomed by anyone who has ever struggled to learn how to operate a compact disc player or program a video recorder timer.

The standard is planned to make it possible for various electronics components — such as a television set, video recorder or hi-fi system — to be linked together and for them to communicate with each other from almost anywhere in the home. It is also at the heart of a big European home automation project.

There are already systems to pipe music or video pictures around the home, but these tend to be expensive and suffer from a chronic lack of standardization — all the components must come from the same manufacturer. The new standard promises to be relatively inexpensive and will not be tied to a single manufacturer.

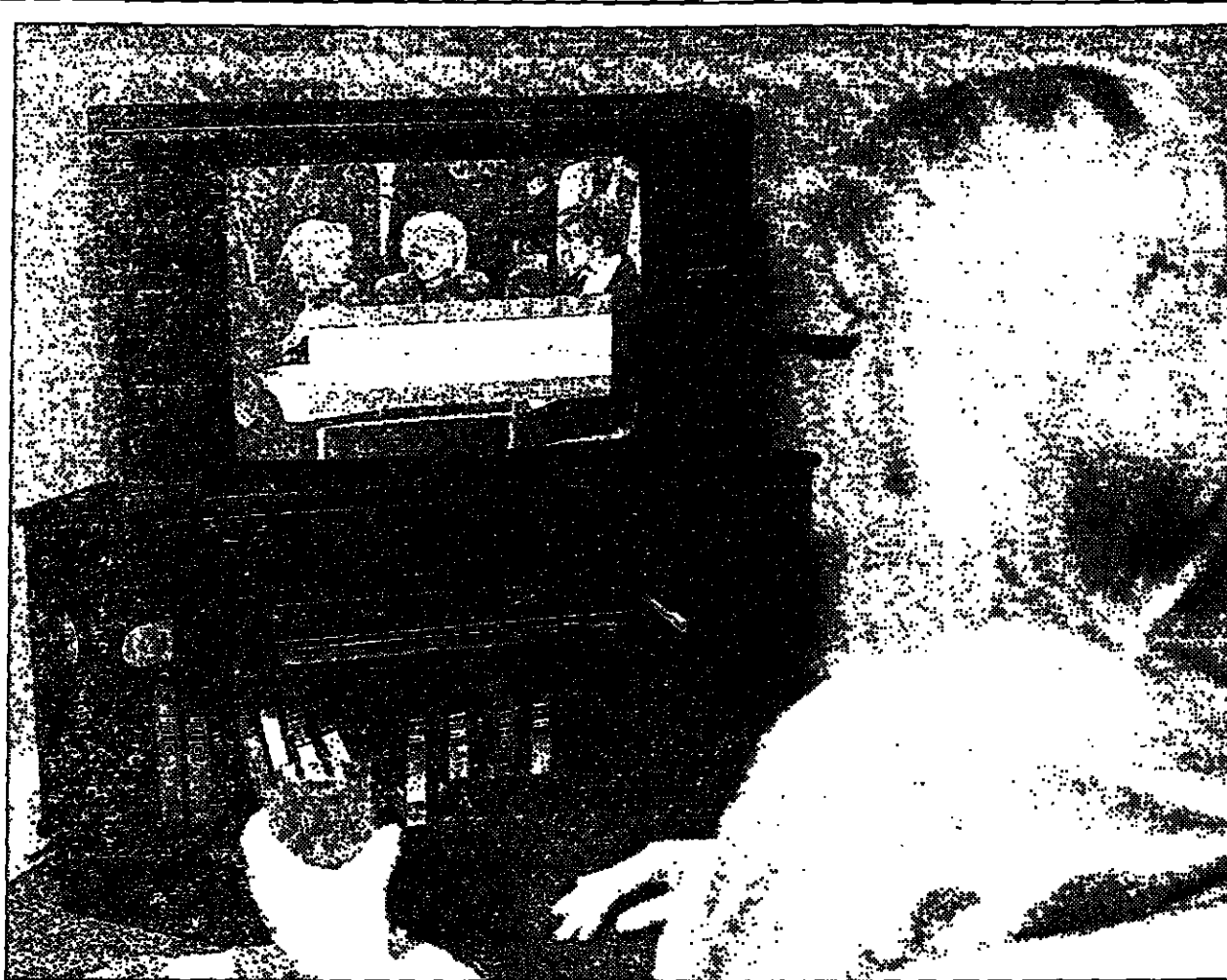
It was developed because it is recognized that many people never get around to using all of the features found

on modern consumer electronics equipment. Instruction booklets are invariably complicated or badly written and operational procedures difficult to carry out. It gets worse when two or more pieces of equipment have to be joined together, such as a television set and satellite tuner.

The system contains microchips and software that allows it to transmit messages to other equipment using the standard. The messages travel along special connector wires and should make electronics equipment much easier to use. For example, a single command will tell a television set to switch on, select a video channel and play back a videotape.

Howard Farmer, manager of Philips' advanced project group, says that the major strengths are simplicity and the fact that users can mix and match components: "It is an international standard, so your Philips D2B television set would be able to talk to a Sony D2B VCR or a Panasonic D2B satellite tuner."

The standard will play an important part in the European home automation project Home Systems Project (HSP), which began last January and runs for two years. It is part of Esprit, an information tech-



A timely — and urgent — warning from the kitchen in the middle of a television programme: "Your washing machine is leaking"

nology programme sponsored by the European Community and led by Philips with other participants including British Telecom, GEC, Siemens, Thomson and Thorn EMI.

Home automation conjures up visions of flicking switches to close curtains or run the bath water, but HSP is about integrating all forms of home electronics — from light bulbs to laser disc players, hi-fi to home heating — and putting them directly under the user's control.

Home Systems could also transform the television set into a home electronics display system. "When your washing machine floods the kitchen, it will tell you on the television," is how one Philips spokesman describes it.

David Fanshawe, an HSP unit manager, is quick to dispel some of the myths surrounding home automation. "We wouldn't like to claim that the whole thing is a total revolution. You certainly don't have to go out and spend

thousands of pounds installing a new wiring system before you start. For most consumers, the automated home will creep in gradually."

Home Systems components will communicate with each other by a variety of media: some will simply plug into the mains socket and send mes-

sages along power lines; others will use infra-red beams, radio frequencies, fibre optic cables or wires. Some can even have commands sent to them down a telephone line.

Another myth is that users will need a personal computer. "It's not a computer-based system, although if you want to link your PC into the set-up you can," Fanshawe says. "A lot of the Home System products will be automatic and

won't have push buttons or switches on them. They'll do things for you, such as switch on the lights when the room gets dark and a person is present."

HSP could also play an important role in home security, and one scenario is a system that works by the

or keeping parts of the system free from phone control.

One headache is in trying to keep the system "future proof" — nobody wants an obsolete system. "You can't do it by looking at products," Farmer says. "For example, if you had invented something for linking lots of radios together and then somebody invented television, you would have one heck of a problem. If you hadn't planned for it."

He thinks that making HS components capable of handling larger signal band widths will cater for developments such as high definition television and digital video pictures.

The first products using the new standard will appear around the middle of next year, but it could be several years before HS systems are launched. By then, the HSP Group should have some idea of the demand for home automation products. Fanshawe is convinced that the need is there.

'A lot of the Home System products will be automatic and won't have push buttons or switches on them'

Britain's training gap grows wider

Appeals from the information technology industry for a rise in training grants, have again been rejected by the Government, amid concerns that more training providers are withdrawing from the Employment Training (ET) scheme.

IT training organizations complain that the quality of training is too low under current funding levels and is misdirected by allowing firms with little experience of training to gain ET funding.

There is already a dearth of training opportunities for those keen on entering the information technology profession. The IT community has called repeatedly for an increase of funding to increase the numbers of staff in the light of the skills shortages and forthcoming demographic downturn.

At a meeting of the House of Commons' Parliamentary Information Technology Committee (PITCOM), last month, Tim Eggart, junior employment minister, rejected pleas for more funding for IT training. "At the end of the day, no Government is going to have the skill or the funds to upgrade the people working in your industry, only employers can do that," he said.

IT companies are reluctant to train new recruits because of the high level of poaching in the industry, although there is



Firth: "giving money away"

evidence that this is changing as the 1990s draw near. Some firms are requiring new recruits to sign contracts guaranteeing that they will remain with them to protect their investment, although this has not gained widespread support.

The Government's ET and Youth Training (YT) schemes provide some funding for school leavers and the unemployed to pick up IT skills. But critics say there is a funding gap, as those wishing to change careers are unable to receive any assistance — as was the case under the Job Training Scheme — and that the best IT training firms are unable to continue with ET because they cannot maintain quality.

This was the case with BOC

Training Services, a leading IT training firm, which finally withdrew from providing IT training for the unemployed under ET. Now others are threatening to do the same.

"We finally pulled out after long drawn-out negotiations with the Training Agency as we were not willing to drop our standards," says Howard Wright, general manager of BOC. "We had to cut the course from 26 weeks under JTS to 12 to 15 weeks under ET because of the lack of funding. The ET programme was nothing short of a disaster, as our placement rate dropped to 50 per cent. The response from industry was pretty negative. No more than a dozen firms were prepared to take ET students."

The National Computing Centre (NCC) remains one of the few UK organizations committed to training IT recruits, but it has indicated this may not continue. Students who complete its course successfully gain the respected NCC Threshold certificate.

The NCC says more than 14,000 unemployed school leavers between 17 and 20 have been trained by it in computing and in excess of 80 per cent have found a career. It operates Threshold, with some funding from employers and the Government, through the ET and YT banners.

The NCC warned the

First one to learn to crawl to the door can train the rest.



PITCOM meeting that it was running the Threshold scheme "at a real financial loss" as funding was insufficient and warned it may stop supporting ET and YT unless its costs were met.

"All the respected training companies say they cannot continue offering training," said Rick Firth, director of training at the NCC. "We're giving money away to support these programmes."

Firth and Wright say it is "common practice" for some training providers to take the best student from each course and make him or her a tutor for the following intake as a way of keeping down costs.

Some who have attended the YT and ET training courses back up this view. One bitter trainee explains how the tutors hired by the training provider

to conduct programming courses knew little about IT and had no experience.

"None of the course tutors had any teaching experience. Two of the students were ex-school teachers and both described the teaching methods as appalling," he says.

However, some IT employers have expressed satisfaction with the quality of ET trainees. Others feel training should be a "market forces"

issue, just as any other commercial factor, although there is still concern that many companies will not take on trainees.

"The industry just cannot go on the way it is, with some companies living off others," says Mike Aldrich, chief executive of computer services firm ROCC. "Grants would be very nice, but would not effect our approach to training. We see training as a survival strategy."

The Government is revising the training infrastructure and plans its hopes on the Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) which are being set up, in co-operation with the Training Agency, will administer the ET and YT programmes.

"The move to TECs is a positive step if industry has its say and concentrates on standards and the quality of training," Wright says.

Leslie Tilley

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Technology award finalists

The winners of the 1989 UK Technology Press Awards, sponsored by The Times and Hewlett Packard, will be announced tonight at a special awards ceremony at Claridges Hotel, hosted by the television presenter Clive Anderson.

It is the sixth year of the awards, set up to promote standards of excellence in a field with more than 150 publications and a combined yearly circulation of more than 50 million copies. Prizes will include a world trip on Singapore Airlines and TWA, a QE2 and Concorde trip to

New York, a two-week overland tour from Bangkok to Singapore with return flights, and a two-week Kenyan safari.

A record 340-plus entries were received, an increase of more than 20 per cent on last year, and today we are announcing the three finalists for each of the nine categories.

Technology Journal of the Year: *Microscope*, edited by John Lettice and published by Dennis Publishing.
Network Publishing: *Network*, edited by Karen Packham and published by VNU.
Personal Computer World, edited by Derek Cohen and

published by VNU.
Best Designed Technology Journal of the Year: *Mac User*, designed by Paul Kingett and published by Dennis Publishing.

Network, designed by Linda Freeman and published by VNU.
Which Computer?, designed by Hassan Yusuf and published by EMAP.

TV or Radio Technology Programme of the Year: *The Art of Deception*, produced by Caroline Thomson for Channel 4.
Imagine 89, produced by Clive Davidson for the BBC.
Keyhole Surgery, produced by Fiona Holmes for the BBC's QED programme.

Technology Columnist of the Year: John Lettice writing for *Microscope*.
David Tebbutt writing for *Mac User*.

Geoff Wheelwright writing for *Management in Personal Computing*.

Photographer of the Year: Chris Bell.
Steve Birknell.
Philip Hobbs.

News Journalist of the Year: Computing.
Tony Collins, *Computer*

Weekly.
Simon Hill, *Computer Weekly*.
Phil Hilton, *Datalink*.

News Journalist of the Year: Electronics.
Adam Majendie, *Electronics Times*.
Greg Manuel, *The Engineer* magazine.

Richard Wilson, *Electronics Weekly*.
Features Journalist of the Year: Computing.

Tony Collins, *Computer Weekly*.
Clive Cookson, *Financial Times*.
Greg Manuel, *The Engineer* magazine.

Ted Wilding White, *Ocean Voice*.

There were more than 20 judges, including Ken Morgan director of the Press Council, Jim Brookes, chief executive of the British Computer Society, Doug Eyles, director general of the Computing Services Association and representatives from major magazine publishers in the field.

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TECHNOLOGY

Sowing the seeds of research

Finding money to back unproven ideas is the work of Korda Seed Capital Fund.
Andrew Lycett reports

A piece of consultancy work for the European Commission led Korda and Company, a London "consultant entrepreneur", to set up what it claims is one of Europe's largest seed funds dedicated to technology. Last month, the £5 million Korda Seed Capital Fund made its first investment, paying £250,000 for a 42 per cent stake in Abbey Biosystems, a new medical products company which has grown out of the work of the University College of Swansea.

The brains behind the new enterprise is Professor Dawood Parker, an expert in non-invasive medical technology, and Professor of Physics at UCS. His work reflects the trend in modern medicine, particularly in the United States, away from invasive instruments requiring needles and catheters. Parker has three main inventions which are already commercially available, including a non-invasive system for measuring oxygen and carbon dioxide through the skin of newborn babies. This product is now manufactured throughout the world, by six companies.

Recently the university has been seeking to exploit its staff's inventions more directly. Three years ago, the Prince of Wales opened its Innovation Centre and it now boasts more than 20 companies, including Abbey Biosystems.

But one problem has been raising money to develop and market ideas which, in many cases, are still on paper. One of Parker's latest inventions, which has already been put through clinical trials, is a cardiac output monitor. Another, which remains a gleam in his eye, is a revolutionary non-invasive glu-



Research: (from left) Phillip Iles and David Lewis watch Dawood Parker test Abbey Biosystems' cardiac output monitor on Amir Noori

cose monitor for diabetics, which has won a Small Firms Merit Award for Research and Technology from the Department of Trade and Industry to help with its development. "We need money to take certain ideas further," Parker says. "We need to create some solid intellectual property. At a later stage we may need venture capital. But it is very difficult for venture capitalists to evaluate sound theoretical concepts."

The difficulties of entrepreneurs seeking start-up finance were highlighted by the Prince of Wales in his recent address to the British Venture Capital Association.

The Korda Seed Capital Fund is one of the organizations trying to plug the gap. Its aim is

to identify promising ventures in emerging technologies—in particular, telecommunications, information technology, healthcare, biotechnology and advanced materials science—to provide management expertise and funding, and help create new businesses.

"Seed capital is totally different from venture capital," says Alex Korda, joint managing director of the parent company. "We like the process of creation and nurturing."

Both Korda, a nephew of his namesake, the famous film director, and his joint managing director, Carolyn Hayman, are examples of a rare British breed—technical whiz-kids who combine a background in

management and finance with a burning desire to impart their knowledge to others.

The Korda company initially operated as a consultancy and "high technology investment banker". One project, completed in April 1988, involved establishing Satellite Media Services (SMS) with funding of £1 million. Korda describes SMS as a "satellite post office", a technically sophisticated system which allows advertisers and programme makers simultaneously to distribute, via satellite, high-quality stereo broadcast material to all of Britain's independent radio stations. It was timed to take advantage of the commercial broadcasting boom.

'It is very difficult for venture capitalists to evaluate sound theoretical concepts'

Another project involved raising capital and providing management know-how for Xenova, a pharmaceutical discovery company which was valued at £9 million in 1988. The contract which led to the setting up of the seed fund came from the European Commission's task force for small and medium enterprises in 1988. Its brief was how to get new risk enterprises off the ground—essentially, how to develop competitive seed capital funds.

Korda's proposals—together with those of a Dutch consultancy—resulted in the European pilot scheme for the stimulation of seed capital.

More than 80 companies applied for funding under the scheme, and in September the Commission named 24, including Korda, which had been successful. Korda has been given an interest-free loan of £600,000 over 10 years to cover the management costs of its own fund.

Other investors in the Korda Seed Capital Fund include Standard Life and Equity & Law. However, seed funding remains a minority interest in Britain.

An unofficial estimate suggests that there are 10 seed capital funds in Britain, with about £20 million at their disposal. Other names to conjure with are Oxford Venture Managers, JMI, Seed Capital, Birmingham Technology and a number of smaller, regional funds, often backed by local government.

But, as Korda says, it is not so much the money that is lacking in Britain for seed funding, but the know-how. "We have a skills gap, rather than a capital gap," he says.

A long distance link-up

A fibre optic cable running across the Soviet Union to provide communications between Europe and Japan is being planned by the Soviet ministry of posts and telecommunications in association with eight international telephone companies, including British Telecom.

The £300 million cable, carrying telephone calls and computer data, will also handle some long distance calls within the Soviet Union. It has hardly any such links now.

The participating companies, which include KDD of Japan, the Deutsche Bundespost and US West, are likely to require a licence from the Co-ordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls, which limits the export of high technology items to the Eastern Bloc.

The cable is likely to follow railway lines across the Soviet Union and use underwater links for connections to Denmark, Japan and Italy. A corporation is to be formed called the Trans-Soviet Line Development Corporation.

Optical fibres, which carry information via hair-thin strands of glass, can carry far more information than conventional copper wires used for telephone systems and are more difficult to intercept.

The cable will compete for international traffic with existing fibre optic links that transmit telephone calls and computer data between Asia and Europe on longer routes under the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Matthew May

Soviet deal for nuclear safety

An American company hopes to send six advanced computers to the Soviet Union to help make nuclear power plants safer

The Soviet Union and the large American computer company Control Data have signed an historic deal aimed at boosting the safety of the Soviet Union's nuclear power stations.

Six advanced computers which, under current export rules, would be strictly embargoed, are planned to be sold to Soviet nuclear research institutes. Under the Co-ordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (Coccom), which limits the export of high technologies to the Eastern Bloc, the computers normally would be banned for sale to the Soviet Union.

James Ousley, president of Control Data's computer products group, said the United States government—a strong advocate of Coccom—was

willing to relent on this particular deal, and he believed that Coccom would clear it because of the general concern over the safety of nuclear plants.

George Tyrer, of Britain's Atomic Energy Authority's directorate of safety and reliability, said the Soviet

Union, which has 50 nuclear power stations, was committed to nuclear power. The vastness of the country often made the shipping of coal and other fossil fuels impractical.

Six Cyber 962 machines are planned for installation in research institutes in Moscow, Gorki, Obninsk and Podolsk.

They will be used by Soviet nuclear scientists to systematically modify their existing plants and devise ways in which these can be simplified.

The computers will also be used to evaluate and forecast the ecological impact and radiation threat to populations if a catastrophe such as Chernobyl occurs.

In investigations after the accident, Soviet calculations were found to be at variance with western figures, as each was arrived at in different ways. The new computers could help bring consistency.

Dr Eugene Adamov, director of the Soviet Research and Development Institute of Power Engineering, stressed the Cyber 962's would be used strictly for civilian purposes.

Nick Nuttall

Music in a muscle

Body language has taken a musical turn with the discovery that faint electrical impulses can be 'heard'

Scientists have developed a way of tapping the faint electrical signals of the human body and translating them into music.

Researchers hope the "biomusic" system could improve the lives of dumb and handicapped children by allowing them to express feelings and ideas directly in sound from arm, leg and other body movements.

The technique works by translating the tiny electrical impulses from brain waves and neck, eye and other muscles into musical notes. There are even plans to use it to boost the training performance of amateur and professional sports people. Its inventors are considering recording the muscle movements of, say, a champion golfer so others can mimic the enviable swing.

"Hooked up to the system, a golfer would move through his swing and listen to the sounds his arm and other body muscles make," says Dr Hugh Lus-

ted, a neuroscientist and co-developer of the system with Dr Ben Knapp. "Then he would compare this with the sound, say, Jack Nicklaus makes on his swing."

"What you try to do is emulate the expert's sound. The ear can be much better than the eye at pattern recognition of this kind."

Athletes have also expressed an interest in harnessing the system in a similar way, Lusted says. At the heart of the unit, called Biomuse, is a computer capable of processing the complex electrical impulses generated by the body. It is linked at one end to tiny electrodes placed on the skin and head. At the other end, the system is connected to a synthesizer.

The scientists' real achievement is in using the digital coding of Biomuse's computer so that seemingly meaningless biological voltages can be represented as comprehensible sounds.

"If you look at the eyes, for example, they are like tiny batteries with the cornea being the positive and the retina the negative," Lusted says. The computer is then coded so that the electrical activity of looking all the way left equals zero and all the way right equals 10. Writing the software to harness this can make zero equal to the low notes on a keyboard and 10 equivalent to the high notes.

"It actually goes further than that. You also have the possibility of up and down eye

movements, too," Lusted adds.

The system has been in development for more than two years at Stanford University, California. Lusted and Knapp believe it has limitless potential. "What we have done is create an interface between the human body and machines," Lusted says.

The researchers are also investigating its uses in robotics and as a direct human way to control computers without using hands. Eye movements would be translated not into sound but into a computer screen's cursor.

The team has also tested Biomuse to control the direction of sound coming from hi-fi speakers simply by looking at them. "If you look all the way left, all the sound comes from the left hand speaker. Looking the other way makes sound come from the right," Lusted says. "In between would be a range of mixes."

Nick Nuttall



Tuning in: Ben Knapp, of Stanford University, adjusts the electrodes that turn brain waves and eye movements into sounds

GENUINE DP OPPORTUNITIES

ANALYST PROGRAMMER ORACLE TO £25,000

Applications are invited from graduates who possess a minimum of 12 months commercial experience to join the development team who are currently involved in the complete re-development of a new Trading System. The project is being developed using CASE Dictionary as the main development environment and 4th generation software tools. This international company has been established for over 100 years and have become one of the largest market makers presently in operation. They have committed themselves to investing heavily in the latest State of the Art technology which will take them forward into the next decade. Benefits include - Company pension, Life assurance, Medical insurance, Season ticket loan. REF TLR 18015

PC/NETWORK TRAINERS

Our client a major international network manufacturer based in the M4 corridor are seeking dynamic & professional individuals with commercial experience in local area networks & training. You will be provided with extensive training in the USA, your position will involve worldwide travel. Salary to £18k + car + exc benefits & career path. ref TF 17942

P.C. Support/Development TO £25K

Due to unprecedented growth in 1989 our clients require a number of PC Support and Development Specialists with skills in one or more of the following areas:

- Accounting
- Databases
- Word Processing
- Local Area Networks
- Communications

On offer are excellent company benefits including worldwide travel, subsidised mortgages, pension schemes and life insurance for you and your family. REF: TC 7215.

HP3000 MIDDXX TO £20,000

My client is presently migrating their systems, to Hewlett Packard and urgently require an Analyst Programmer to undertake some of the major responsibilities associated with such a move. Sound analytical and POWERHOUSE skills are required, anyone with less than 2 years experience is unlikely to be considered. You will be involved in the development of all their internal financial and manufacturing systems, and promotion to Team Leader is foreseeable for the right individual. For more information quote REF: T 17907.

★★★★★ COMPUTER SALES ★★★★★

MAINFRAME 4GL SOFTWARE BASE TO £35k + BONUS SCHEME

A highly respected and reputable company that markets and sells high level software products has requested that we seek three Account Managers to help their further expansion in 1990. Their software portfolio is varied and applications are diverse, therefore the background of the professionals they need is that of a very strong track record in software sales across any mainframe platform. Degree level education is desirable and a minimum of 5 years sales experience is essential, therefore applicants under the age of 30 will not possess the maturity to be successful in these roles. Based in north London and the north of England, candidates will enjoy the benefits of working for a developing company that has grown to be a market leader in the 1980's. For more details call Graham Fuller on 01-434 9561 (days) or 01-776 6741 (even) quoting Ref: GF17788.

CAD/CAM DESIGNERS

The growth in C.A.D. has mushroomed in the latter 1980's, as a result a number of our clients require C.A.D. designers with experience in the following areas:

- Mechanical/Civil/Structural/Electrical architectural and civil designers.

All positions are London & Home Counties based with salaries in the range of £14-25k + benefits. REF TF 13877

Analyst/Programmers S.EAST £Neg

Due to continued expansion this international airline company is currently seeking several Analyst/Programmers with a minimum of one year's commercial experience in a UNIX and 'C' environment. A knowledge of logos is desirable although training will be provided. A DBASE III Analyst/Programmer with two years commercial PC analysis and multi-user development experience is also required. The total packages on offer for both of these positions includes travel benefits and package holiday reductions. REF: TH 16566.

ICL Professionals

One of the largest banking organisations in the UK is looking to recruit a variety of candidates with strong ICL experience. Positions range from:

- Programmers 18 mths Cobol/VME £15-£17K
- Programmers 2 yrs Cobol/VME £16-£19K
- Team Leads/Project Leads ICL £22-£24K

A fine range of benefits include subs mortgage, S.T. Loan, Preferential loans, non con pension, 24-28 days annual leave. The environment utilises the latest technology, running IDMS/TPMS/TPS. It is essential that candidates are well presented and capable of liaison at a variety of levels. Call for a fuller job description. REF: T 118016.

Customer Support COBOL Surrey

One of the most successful software suppliers within the Hewlett Packard market place is looking for an ambitious, career minded individual. A minimum of one years Hewlett Packard COBOL experience is required to initially take up a role within customer support, both in-house and on client site, the company is presently undergoing expansion and will provide opportunities to move into a consultancy or sales role, should this be your chosen career path. Salary - Neg. REF: TOX.

ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE £25k BASE . £50k OTE

Our client, a major provider of accounting software databases and office automation, now requires an experienced Sales Executive to sell to a portfolio of major accounts. The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate a successful track record of Unix-based accounting software sales. This is an opportunity to further your sales career with an established market leader working a territory in the south of England with responsibility for some of the most important company clients. In return for your skills you will be given an above average basic salary and an open ended commission scheme, plus additional blue-chip company benefits. For further details please call Mark Ward on 01-434 9561 or 01-780 1324 (even) quoting Ref: MW17908.

DATAPOWER

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Chipping a market

Mitsubishi Electric, a major Japanese chip maker, is planning to produce semiconductors in West Germany for sale mainly in Europe.

Mitsubishi Semiconductor Europe, a wholly-owned subsidiary to be established shortly in Alsdorf, near Aachen, is to start production in late 1991, the company says.

The subsidiary, capitalized at two billion yen (£9 million) will complete a manufacturing plant by mid-1991. The plant will produce mainly four-megabit dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips. Its annual sales are targeted to rise from 12 billion yen (£40 million) in 1991 to around 42 billion yen (£145 million) in 1994.

It will be Mitsubishi Electric's second chip manufacturing plant overseas and Mitsubishi will be the first Japanese maker to produce chips in continental Europe.

ESA plans dished?

The future of Europe's satellite imaging programme may be placed in peril if Britain and France fail to agree on the design and funding of two crucial craft, Nick Nuttall writes.

A European Space Agency (ESA) crisis council meeting was called this week at which Reimar Rust, the agency's director-general, told members that both projects would be cancelled if an agreement could not be found.

The wrangle centres on two separate projects that are intertwined. One is the ESA polar platform, set to launch in 1993. This will play a vital role in Freedom, the worldwide programme which is to send back images of the earth's oceans, land masses and weather systems.

Two companies are competing for the contract to design the platform. British Aerospace has proposed a more ambitious, flexible, but costlier scheme that will allow

A dispute between the UK and France is jeopardizing two satellite projects

technologies to be "added on" in the future as the need arises. France has suggested a version of its Spot satellite family which is less flexible, but cheaper.

The space agency is also preparing to launch its European Remote Sensing satellite, ERS1, next year. The satellite, in which Marconi, the British defence electronics company, has an interest, will be smaller than the polar platform, but no less important, sending back data to stations on earth.

ERS1 is scheduled to last for two to three years. To bridge the gap between its demise and the platform's launch the agency has planned for ERS2.

After months of wrangling over the polar platform, ESA has decided to adopt a design which is mainly French, but incorporates some of BAE's flexibility.

However, in a surprise move, France has said it is not willing to pay for ERS2, despite having won the lion's share of the platform contract. The issue will be discussed at the meeting.

It is feared the French prevarication has tried Rust's patience—both projects are in jeopardy.

"What is likely is that the director-general will say 'if you are not interested in continuity, what is the point in looking beyond? We leave both the polar platform and ERS2 in limbo,'" says an ESA spokesman.

"We hope we will not get to this point, but if we do not have ERS2, then we cannot see how we can have the platform," she says.

TECHNOLOGY

Change of program

Users of IBM's MVS system seem to have solved their staffing problems.

Caroline Berman explains how

Systems programmers are needed to install, tailor and maintain operating systems. Because more application programs than ever are being developed outside IBM, more systems programmers are needed to keep them going.

Traditionally they were supposed to load software to make it work and to make the machine do

"We can't match the prices others are paying, so we are looking to other ways of filling the posts," says Graham Hoyle, the company's personnel officer.

Philips is now offering to retrain operators, and is planning secondments for people prepared to move over to MVS. The company is also taking a level

'If people become too expensive we walk away from the deal'

more. Now a systems programmer is working with monolithic machines and may be co-ordinating the use of software from six different suppliers, communications protocols and personal computer networks. Systems programming is a question of fine-tuning the system to all these different demands.

Philips Electronics is one company that has started to look at alternative ways of filling MVS systems programming vacancies.

trainees for the first time — the first of six have recently been started on a pilot scheme.

But, Hoyle says: "The immediate problem is not solved. We still need to take people on or use contractors in the short term."

Tracy Norbury, computer recruitment officer at the Prudential Assurance Company, agrees. "We have been competing for people with banks like Lloyds and Chase Manhattan," she says. "But there has been a rationalization and, as

JOBS SCENE

we have strict pay-bands, if people become too expensive we walk away from the deal."

Prudential pays £17,000 to £18,000 for a junior and £25,000 to someone with more experience. Like other companies, Prudential has taken on graduates who have gone straight into the area of MVS systems programming, and increased the numbers doing so last year.

But David Hillier, manager of Oric recruitment, believes experienced specialists are still worth the money. "Salaries are high now but there is less euphoria about it."

Hillier says most systems programmers he recruits earn £25,000 to £33,000, but they can get up to £40,000. Juniors start at £18,000 to £20,000.

Bill Illing, systems programmer manager at Apex Computer Recruitment, agrees they are still able to command high salaries of £27,000 to £33,000, but if companies are really desperate they will pay £35,000 to £40,000. Although he agrees that in-house training is the best way to go for most companies, Illing also warns that as soon as systems programmers are trained, they will go elsewhere if they are not being paid the market level.

Picture of the future

Twenty years ago, a computer was a large electronic box that took up half a room and "spoke" to its users via a teletype printer and accepted commands via a telex-style keyboard.

As we move into 1990 the popular image of the computer has changed — a different keyboard, television-style display screen and floppy disk drives in a package small enough to fit on a desk. The images displayed on this screen are still generally textual, however, and instructions are usually sent via a keyboard.

A great deal of work is now being done on a new generation of desktop computers that will use highly detailed computer graphics images alongside video pictures and provide methods of giving computers commands via speech and other devices.

Much of the pioneering effort in this direction has come from the so-called "multi-media" sector of the computer industry, which seeks to mix text, graphics, live-action video, animation, sound and music together with an initial eye on providing sophisticated computer training packages before the systems fall in price and become available to a wider audience.

A typical use for such a system might be in, for example, a management training course. Controlled entirely through the computer, and displayed on a computer's screen, might be a training videodisc showing a difficult business situation.

The video would be stopped at the first decision point and the computer would ask the person which of several options he or she would pursue.

It then shows the consequences of taking that particular option. By using full-motion video, sound and computer text to provide this training system, proponents argue complete and easily used training courses can be developed.

Multi-media computing is also expected to play a role in the development of the next generation of entertainment software.

In the future, animated and live-action film sequences will be able to be stored on laser discs and combined with computer graphics and text to provide computer games a generation away from Space Invaders.

Techniques developed to control computers using a mouse and voice input would allow either to be used in playing such games.

Geoff Wheelwright



"Companies finally reached the end of their tether", Lynne Sewell

The electric motor, seen for years as the answer to pollution problems, is still largely a dream. Kevin Eason reports

Plug in the 'greener' car

The BMW cruising quietly through the city centre looks no different from any other but for one thing... there are no exhaust fumes.

Instead of the usual six-cylinder petrol engine — a power pack which has helped to forge the German company's enviable worldwide reputation — there is an electric motor purring under the bonnet.

BMW has entered what is now the most intensive research race for car manufacturers: how to find an alternative to burning highly polluting fossil fuels and so clean up the atmosphere of our towns and city centres.

Engineers acknowledge that even adding a three-way catalytic converter to a petrol engine, thus soaking up 90 per cent of noxious exhaust fumes, will not end the damage being inflicted on our environment.

Petrol engines with catalysts still pour carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, adding to the pollutants blamed for damaging the ozone layer.

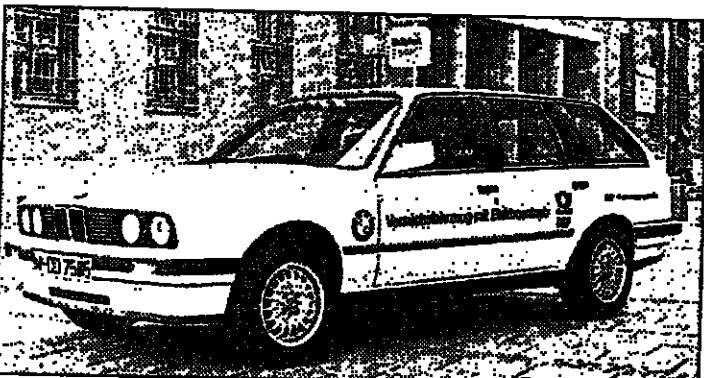
The electric car has been seen as a solution for years, but scientists are still no nearer to perfecting lightweight batteries which will carry power long enough and far enough to match the performance of the conventional petrol or diesel engine.

What alternatives are there if the green lobby persuades European governments to adopt measures which will mean either switching to cleaner fuels or banning the car completely from city centres?

BMW says that for daily commuters travelling a few miles to work and home again, the answer may be an electric car. They could have a petrol-burning model for long journeys or weekend use.

The company's 3-series Touring estate car is testing that theory

with the Post Office in Nuernberg, West Germany. The aim was not to produce a futuristic bubble car, but to offer a model looking and feeling like a BMW but running on battery power.



Testing time: the West German Post Office's electric BMW Touring

The 17-kilowatt motor produces enough power through a two-stage clutchless transmission to get the vehicle rolling from 0 to 31mph in nine seconds — about half the performance of a petrol

car — with a top speed of more than 60mph. In town traffic, the car should have a range of about 100 miles.

The model is being tested over the next few weeks while BMW's research team logs likely power and performance over a working life, but the early figures underline the drawbacks of electric power compared with petrol and diesel units.

BMW engineers say that results of tests on hydrogen-powered vehicles have been much more satisfying, giving performance about 70 per cent that of petrol models.

The fuel can also be fed through engines not very different from the usual four or six cylinder petrol versions.

The beauty of hydrogen is that its main by-product after burning

is water, with traces of hydrocarbons.

However, there are two big drawbacks: first, the fuel is not readily available, so the first cars would have difficulty filling up; and, second, hydrogen has to be stored at temperatures below freezing point, which at the moment, means carrying a bulky refrigeration unit in the boot of the car.

That swings the race back in favour of the electric car, once again, simply because of the easy supply of fuel.

BMW's expert in the UK, Scott Brownlee, says: "The hydrogen project has produced some fascinating results, but the problems of supply and keeping the fuel super-cool are very great at the moment."

"The problem is that you cannot pull into a filling station and fill up with hydrogen, nor will you be able to do so for some time without a major switch to the new fuel."

"But you can park your electric car and plug it into a socket overnight."

A way to make the words flow

When David Furlonger came up with a scheme to cut printing costs and make the process easier, everyone told him it was impossible. He is owner and managing director of Wordstream, a typesetting service based in Poole, Dorset, with 20 employees, a client list that includes many overseas, and a £750,000-a-year turnover.

Furlonger decided to try to persuade his customers to transmit their copy by telephone line into an electronic mail box, rather than posting it to him. It was a tall order. Though such services are increasingly common, most of his clients are not captains of industry. They publish missionary newsletters, charity magazines, bottle labels, foreign phrase books, and newspapers.

Furlonger believed there had to be something better than a system in which, first the customer composed the copy, which then had to be re-keyed to produce the "brochure" — printed paste-up paper — needed for the final stage of the process. He spent years "fiddling around with computers" in the hope of finding a way out.

But in the end it was technological advances in the form of personal computers and electronic mail that made his scheme possible. Demand increased, too, as many more people became self-employed and started home-based publishing businesses.

An innovative idea takes the pain out of publishing with an electronic mailing system

PROFILE

All that Furlonger needed to do was to persuade his customers to carry out their part of the job electronically, rather than posting their copy complete with handwritten printers' marks.

"When we started, everyone told me I was crazy except the people who were using the new system."

"However, I realized that if we were to make this work, I had to take the terror out of the technology. We provided communications software and instruction manuals for our clients, advised them on what modems to buy, and perhaps most importantly, we set up a help line to guide them through any early difficulties. We also sent them an error report, if necessary, to show where they had gone wrong."

The plus side, from the customers' point of view, was a two-hour turnaround of their copy, and very cheap typesetting rates.

"We have a customer in Japan who sends his typesetting via Telecom Gold. He says it is cheaper to use us than a local typesetter. There's another customer in Belgium who finds it quicker to use Wordstream even though he has a typesetter in the same building."

Furlonger says the company does not have any problems handling foreign languages because it is the customer — who speaks the language — who does the typesetting. "The Welsh Language Society have had particular difficulties in getting their copy set, and find us very useful."

Some customers had their own desktop publishing packages, but found that when they took laser proofs to a printer down the road, it was rejected.

"It was a quality problem," Furlonger says. "Laser printers work at 300 dots per inch, while our photo-imaging typesetter works at 2,500 dots to the inch. That's the advantage of using a dedicated typesetting machine."

Earlier this year Wordstream won a Sunday Times/British Telecom Business Phone Award for its innovative use of telecommunications. Since then, the company has introduced a new service which allows its customers to cut out another stage of the operation.

He explains: "Wordstream goes as far as the galley stage. We mail the brochure to our customers, who paste it up on the page layout,



Page power: the system devised by Wordstream managing director, David Furlonger, lets his clients do the typesetting from their own offices

and then hand it to the printer. "Our new Centre Page service will save them this chore by taking complete pages from a desktop publishing package. It is available via MicroLink, Isel-Inet, JANet, Telemail or Datalink."

Wordstream customers use modems/phone links to send their typesetting into an electronic mailbox. From there it is transmitted to Wordstream via BT's packet switchstream system.

"The copy comes into our DEC minicomputers almost immediately, after an automatic check to make sure that it is complete. Then, according to whether it is Wordstream or Centre Page, the computer automatically allocates it to a typesetting machine."

"Customers who are not yet ready for electronic mail, can post their discs in the normal way. Any PC user with a modem can access Wordstream, but only IBM

compatibles can use Centre Page." The typesetting machines are in constant use — a far cry from the days when they were manually operated and used only about a tenth of their capacity.

"We've also got backup systems. For instance, when the PSS line went down for three weeks recently, we were able to download the copy by using ordinary telephone links."

He soon expects to close a

licensing deal with a major American company. The thought that the British might have something to teach the Americans about computer applications gives him particular satisfaction.

"We have proved that there is no big deal or mystery about typesetting. If you can type, we can do the rest. Our customers have become very skilled."

Ann Kent

Computer-users have been left wondering if they have been the victims of an elaborate, mischievous hoax or the target of a bizarre blackmail attempt after the circulation of hundreds of software discs claiming to offer educational information on Aids, Nick Nuttall writes.

Experts suspect that the disc, which was distributed unrequested to many companies through the post, harbours a pernicious computer virus that is capable of damaging and corrupting sensitive electronic files.

One company that became suspicious contacted the police, and a criminal investigation into the affair is now under way.

If used, the disc — which bears the name of a company called the PC Cyber Corporation but no address — could create a series of hidden files and directories that computer-users would find difficult to remove.

Computer staff at Mtd Glamor-

Peril by post

Users are warned of a suspect disc in this week's mail

gan County Council's computer order department who, along with some of Britain's biggest companies, received the item in Tuesday's morning post, noticed that the software is programmed to demand money.

Users, who may have unwittingly inserted the disc into their personal computers believing it to contain important educational information on Aids, find a post office box number in Panama, South America, where a fee for using the disc should be sent.

A small sheet of paper that was posted with the discs warns in extremely small print on the back that once the software is used payments of \$189 or \$378 must be made or the distributors reserve the right "to use program mecha-

nisms to ensure termination of your use of the programs. These program mechanisms will adversely affect other program applications on microcomputers."

Edward Wilding, editor of the Virus Bulletin, whose subscribers number some of the country's leading companies, says: "We started to get calls on Tuesday morning from a number of subscribers saying they had received this program, which purports to have information about the HIV virus. "But it comes with a one small

sheet of instructions and with rather mischievous-looking clauses of small print on the back."

A police spokesman at Bow Street CID in central London said it had been handed details of the disc and had opened an investigation.

Paul Murphy, of Cyber Systems UK Ltd, says he and officials at the company's group parent based in Chicago have been deluged by calls from worried computer-users. "The disc is absolutely not ours. The name is similar, which is why I suppose people who have been sent it have been calling us," he says.

Computer viruses, such as the recent high-profile Friday the 13th type, replicate themselves in a computer's software.

At a predetermined time and date, triggered by the computer's clock, the program can be sparked into life and can wipe out a computer's memory or wreak havoc on electronic files.

Making light work of fakes

While hologram-based security features are becoming common on plastic credit cards, there are difficulties in printing them on paper used for banknotes.

One answer could be a more expensive and different technology being tried out on an Austrian banknote. The 5,000 schilling notes — worth £255 — are being issued with an iridescent stamp-sized head of Mozart which changes position from left to right with movement of the note.

Landis & Gyr, the Swiss electronics communications company, developed the proprietary technology used, which is known as a Kinegram, and says it can stop counterfeiting.

Kinegrams use diffraction elements replicated into special

coatings of a lacquer which are transferred to the banknote using hot stamping. They are currently being used for Saudi Arabian passports and some West German visas.

Kinegrams contain obvious optical movements, can be read by machine and, because of their brightness, are easier to authenticate than holograms, the company says.



Using hi-tech to beat the counterfeiters: Austria's 5,000 schilling note

'Magic mushrooms' were made an illegal product

Hodder and Another v DPP
Before Lord Justice Neill and Mr Justice Roch

[Judgment December 13]
"Magic mushrooms" contained psilocybin, an ester of psilocin, a controlled drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, and such mushrooms which had been picked, packaged and frozen constituted a "product" within the meaning of paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Act.

Therefore unlawful possession of the mushrooms in that state was an offence under the Act. The Queen's Bench Divisional Court stated dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Mr James Hodder and Mr Ricky Manthwa, by way of case stated from their conviction by the Bridgewater Magistrates on April 7, 1989, of possessing a controlled drug under section 5(2) of the 1971 Act.

The drug squad had on a raid of premises found bags of frozen magic mushrooms in the freezer compartment of the refrigerator belonging to the defendants. On analysis by a forensic scientist the mushrooms were found to contain psilocybin, an ester of psilocin which was a Class A drug listed in Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the 1971 Act.

Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the 1971 Act, includes "3 Any ester or other of a substance for the time being specified in paragraph 1 or 2 above."

"5 Any preparation or other product containing a substance or product for the time being specified in paragraphs 1 to 4 above."

Mr Richard Bromilow for the defendants, Mr Simon Morgan for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE ROCH said that the prosecution presented the case to the magistrates on the basis that it came within paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Act. The mushrooms had been picked, packed and frozen for the purpose of preserving them for future use, was a preparation within the meaning of the words "any preparation containing a substance or product..." specified in paragraph 5, namely psilocybin which was an ester of psilocin.

During the course of further argument before their Lordships Mr Morgan sought to rely in the alternative on the words in paragraph 5 "other product" as apt to cover the frozen and packaged mushrooms.

The defendants' case before the magistrates was that something had to be done to the mushrooms to make them usable as a drug. "Preparation" must refer to the mushrooms and not mere packaging.

The magistrates concluded that the defendants had picked a large number of mushrooms knowing that they could be used to hallucinate and intending to use them for that purpose.

"We were also of the opinion that because the mushrooms were counted out into packets each containing 100 then labelled and subsequently frozen

that, using the ordinary and natural meaning of the word 'preparation' the actions of the defendants amounted to preparation for future use."

In his Lordship's judgment the magistrates were right to find that for a substance to be a "preparation" within the meaning of paragraph 5, a natural substance must have been subjected to some process by a human being which prepared the natural substance for future use as a drug.

The word "prepare" meant "to make ready or fit to bring into a suitable state; to subject to a process for bringing it to a required state."

In his Lordship's judgment the freezing of the magic mushrooms did not convert the mushrooms into a "preparation". There was no evidence that freezing the mushrooms brought them into a suitable state to be consumed. The evidence was that they could not be used until they had been defrosted.

If the matter rested on that point alone his Lordship would allow the appeal and hold that the act of freezing was not an act of preparation, it was simply an act of preservation.

However, his Lordship's judgment of the mushrooms picked, packaged and frozen did come within the meaning of the word "product" or within the phrase "or other product" in those words' ordinary and natural meanings.

On that ground his Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Neill agreed. Solicitors: Dodson Harding, Taunton; CPS, Taunton.

Passing custodial sentences on young offenders

Regina v Davison
Before Lord Justice Russell, Mr Justice Hodgson and Mr Justice Scott Baker

[Reasons December 12]

The Court of Appeal considered again the construction of section 1 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982, as amended by section 123 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, and the importance of sentences discharging the duty imposed by the new legislation when passing a custodial sentence on offenders under the age of 21.

Their Lordships gave reasons for allowing on November 16 the appeal against sentence of Donald John Davison, aged 17. The court quashed the sentence of three months detention in a young offender institution imposed on October 13, 1989 by Miss Assistant Recorder A. J. Rafter sitting at Kingston-upon-Thames Crown Court, following the appellant's plea of guilty on September 15 to eight offences of burglary. Three similar offences were taken into consideration.

Section 1 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982, as amended by section 123 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, provides: "(4) A court may not— (a) pass a sentence of detention in a young offender institution; ... unless it is satisfied— (i) that the circumstances, including the nature and gravity of the offence are such that if the offender were aged 21 or over the court would

pass a sentence of imprisonment; and (ii) that he qualifies for a custodial sentence."

"(4A) An offender qualifies for a custodial sentence if— (a) he has a history of failure to respond to non-custodial penalties and is unable or unwilling to respond to them; or (b) only a custodial sentence would be adequate to protect the public from serious harm from him; or (c) the offence of which he has been convicted or found guilty was so serious that a non-custodial sentence for it cannot be justified."

Mr Martin Kurrein, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant.

LORD JUSTICE RUSSELL, delivering the reserved reasons of the court, said that the appellant's offences all involved entry of commercial premises at night, in the New Covent Garden Market or nearby. The total losses amounted to upwards of about £500 and the total value of the damage done was about £500.

On October 4, 1989, some months before he was sentenced for those offences, the appellant was placed on probation for two years for another offence of non-residential burglary.

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The final authority was *R v Adams*, [1976] 1 WLR 1321, [1976] 1 All ER 1009, where the observations as to section 1(4) were made.

In their Lordships' view, the law was correctly stated in *Adams* and *Khan*. Each criterion was mutually exclusive.

The court must in each case decide whether one or more than one was satisfied. Each was directed to different aspects of the case.

Criterion (a) required the court to look at the particular offender; (b) was concerned about protecting the public from serious harm from the offender; (c) was concerned about the gravity of each individual offence.

When an offender did not qualify for a custodial sentence under (a) or (b) it was not permissible to aggregate offences under (c) when each did not qualify on its own.

There remained the question whether it was appropriate to pay regard to the factors of the offence under criterion (b). Certainly, as the court had said in *Roberts*, a broader approach was permissible in relation to (b), where the concern was to protect the public from serious harm.

In the present case their Lordships concluded that none of the criteria was satisfied. The sentence of three months detention was quashed, and no further penalty was imposed in the light of the probation order.

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necessitated taking each offence individually.

There was, however, an important addition to the wording of criterion (c). The original wording was "the offence was so serious that a non-custodial sentence cannot be justified". The present wording introduced the words "for it".

The next case was *R v Hassan*, [1989] 1 WLR 1321, [1989] 1 All ER 1009, where the court was in no doubt that the principle in *Roberts* was applicable.

Had matters rested there it seemed to their Lordships that there would have been no problem. But there were two subsequent decisions of the court, *Hassan* and *Khan* did not appear to have been cited in either of them.

The first was *R v Hassan* (The Times June 8, 1989) in which, dealing with criterion (c) Mr Justice Boreham said that in *Roberts* the court had made it clear that it was considering the gravity of the offence "in the light of all the circumstances".

Their Lordships did not read the judgment in *Roberts* in that way. What the court said in *Roberts* was that a broader approach was permissible in relation to (b), where the concern was to protect the public from serious harm.

In the present case their Lordships concluded that none of the criteria was satisfied. The sentence of three months detention was quashed, and no further penalty was imposed in the light of the probation order.

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Peter Ball discovers that old films and tapes of sporting events are producing handsome profits repackaged as video releases

TV sport video style is proving a winner

Over the last two weeks reviews of books of the year in various sports have been appearing on these pages, and indeed on the sports pages of most of the quality Press. By next year it is quite likely that there will be reviews of the sports videos of the year instead — or as well — for sports videos are one of the great growth industries of the moment.

"Shops are meant to be having a hard time this Christmas with no-one spending money, but that's not true for videos, the market is just exploding," Paul Holland, marketing manager of BBC videos, who are still the market leaders, said. "It is double what it was a year ago, people just can't get enough. There aren't enough VHS machines in the country to duplicate the material and get the tapes out."

Holland was describing the video market generally, but sports videos are a sizeable part, as a trip to Woolworths, who still dominate the retail side or W H Smith reveals. Their shelves are packed with a hundred or so titles, with golf, cricket, both varieties of rugby (in the north anyway), and boxing all strongly represented.

The famous BBC compilations of great moments including "Clive Lloyd's Finest Hour" the recent release on the magnificent 1975 World Cup, Richie Benaud's "25 Not Out", or "Botham's Ashes" are among some irresistible cricket titles. There are similar offerings for Wimbledon, horse-racing and rugby union.

Other producers, including Parkfield, an emerging force in the field, offer titles in boxing, while tapes on individuals are also beginning to appear. One video public relations man remarked

that at a recent Tottenham Hotspur launch, five Tottenham people present were signed to make videos.

There are other approaches. Golf, the second most popular sport on video, has tapped a rich seam with instructional tapes. The BBC's "Play Better Golf with Peter Alliss" and "Nick Faldo's Golf Course" by the independent, Vestron, are winning widespread praise and high sales.

Yet if the market is burgeoning now, it will get even bigger. "We would expect to sell 30-35 per cent more next year than we have this," a buyout Holland declared, "even though I don't think there will be so many massive sellers because the proliferation of titles will give the buyer more options."

Among the big sellers football, unsurprisingly, dominates. The BBC's all-time best sellers are led by "Watch With Mother" and "Postman Pat" but third on the list is the "Official History of Liverpool", which has sold 140,000 copies, or three and half times the club's capacity attendance.

The Manchester United video in the same series has sold 100,000 and is eighth in the all-time list, and Holland expects the recent Chelsea and Aston Villa histories to sell 50,000 by Christmas. The compilation "25 years of Match of the Day", glowingly reviewed on these pages 10 days ago sold 22,000 in seven days and, said Holland, "has the potential to be a 100,000 seller."

With those figures as an incentive, it is hardly surprising that the market is bulging with companies trying to get a slice of the action. The BBC remain the big players, but they no longer have a clear field.

"Two years ago we virtually had the market to ourselves," Holland admitted, "but there are a lot more companies involved now. If you want to buy something on Arsenal or Liverpool there are five or six tapes to choose from."

Among them are the season's compilations put out by the Football League through CBS Fox, which cover all twenty first division clubs. They too are rewarding, if not quite as successful as the BBC histories. Predictably the tape of Arsenal's championship year has been the most successful, selling 50,000, with overall sales around 250,000.

"I would expect we will have royalties in excess of £300,000 to pay to the clubs in royalties by the end of the Christmas period," Trevor Phillips, the football League's commercial director, said. The clubs get a royalty of £1 on each tape.

For clubs who also get the retailers' commission on sales in their club shops the market is now a lucrative one. But except for rare occasions, like Liverpool's 9-0 beating of Crystal Palace, which was put out within 48 hours and sold 9,000 copies, individual club matches, made by the clubs themselves, are not popular.

"We've attempted to sell single game videos through our club shop," Peter Robinson, the Liverpool chief executive, said, "but demand is very small indeed for an ordinary League game, around a couple of dozen sales, and if we lose they don't want to buy them at all."

"People are sophisticated now. They are used to seeing live football on television, a very slick operation with 12 cameras." The prize-winning Liverpool

tape, "Liverpool, The Mighty Reds", the story of their all-conquering 1967-8 season, and the Liverpool and Manchester United official histories cost between £60,000 and £70,000 to prepare, with the Match of the Day team of Brian Barwick and John Motson making the tapes.

On the other hand the BBC's issues of past FA Cup finals, including the recent, fascinating release of the 1953 "Matthews Final" cost virtually nothing to make but are still of a high standard, as are the official Football League videos, which, in the case of the "big five" clubs makes generous use of ITV material.

Those from Parkfield, who have recently issued the George Graham, Gary Lineker and Peter Shilton stories along with some boxing tapes, and Castle Communications, whose Kenny Dalglish tape is so far the most successful of those made about individuals, are all fairly reliable.

Some aren't. "Even in sport there is a lot of dress thrown out," said Holland, and content about the quality of some of the football tapes on the market has persuaded Phillips of the need to take action to protect the sport's interests.

"There are only three real sources of stock to make football videos," Phillips said, "and they are the BBC archives, ITV archives, and ourselves — World Wide Soccer. Because of our agreements with BBC and ITV, any independent producer has to get League permission to use their stock, and we are currently refusing that permission in quite a few cases to try to close the market down. We are concerned about the quality of some of the football tapes, and I also believe that we should try to control the market."



A masterly innings: Clive Lloyd in full flow during his marvellous century in the first World Cup final

EQUESTRIANISM

Busy Whitaker and Milton leap for a record prize

By Jenny MacArthur

John Whitaker makes a last attempt to bring his prize-money with Next Milton to a record £250,000 this year when he competes at the Olympia International Show Jumping Championships, which start today at the Grand Hall, Olympia, sponsored by Cognac Courvoisier, Modern Alarms and Crose and Blackwell.

Twenty-one British riders and 19 foreign riders are competing at the five-day show, whose centrepiece is the Volvo World Cup qualifier, the seventh of the season, on Saturday afternoon.

Whitaker, whose victory in the Frankfurt Grand Prix with Next Milton last weekend has brought his winnings close to £240,000, has a hectic schedule. After competing at Olympia he intends to ride Next Gammon at the Grenoble international show on Sunday in the final of

the Renault jump series in which he is lying second to the Frenchman, Michel Robert. Whitaker won last year after a similar round trip. The first prize at Grenoble is a £30,000 car.

At Olympia, where the prize-money has increased by 62 per cent after complaints by the riders, he will have plenty of chances to achieve his target with Next Milton. In addition to the World Cup qualifier, there is a big competition each night, including the £25,000 Crose and Blackwell grand prix on Monday.

The competition will be intense. The on-form Emma-Jane Mac, the highest placed Briton — fifth equal — in the European league for the World Cup is bringing her top horse, Everest Oyster, on whom she won the Washington World Cup qual-

ifier in November. She is also riding Everest Gringo, her top speed horse, winner of four classes at Wembley in October.

Other Britons competing include Nick Skelton and David Broome, both in the top 10 of the European league, Joe Turi, Michael Whitaker and all three members of the Smith family.

The foreign riders are led by the West German Olympic team gold medal winner, Franke Sloothak, who is second in the European league. Sloothak, one of the riders who said he would not be returning to Olympia unless the prize-money went up, is bringing Waterkoning on whom he won the grand prix last year.

John Whitaker, the European champion, has won this year's British Equestrian Writers' Association Trophy for the equestrian personality of the year.

Ignoring guidelines

From Mr A. Milner-Barry

Sir, I was interested to read that the Badminton Association has apparently been ignoring its selection guidelines. There was a similar case last summer in respect of the selection for the world fencing championships in Denver when I was at the wrong end of a decision by the administrators to over-ride the selectors. The competitors had been told that training was essential and compulsory, but none the less the preferred fencer was not selected for doing virtually none (a pattern which continued between selection and departure date). Repeated protests from various sources fell on deaf ears.

Fortunately for discipline, in this case the result obtained was commensurate with the effort: none the less this kind of flexibility in selection is confusing and demoralising. Yours faithfully, A MILNER-BARRY, 4 Rungby Mansions, SW15.

Amateur ethos worth preserving at all costs

From Mr B. J. Broad

Sir, In his letter of November 30 Mr A. Davies criticises "old stagers" in the game of rugby union for failing to change and "out of touch" with the modern game. I am an "old stager" with first class county and club experience who recently hung up his boots after actively playing the game for 50 seasons — each one with change.

Admittedly, when younger, most of us criticised old stagers as traditional fuddy-duddies. But doesn't Mr Davies appreciate that 100,000 players get a game of rugby every week only because some 2,000 club committees, monopolised by "old stagers" (past-players and enthusiasts), provide the facility and where-with? Providing grounds, fixtures, teams, finance, changing rooms, referees, equipment, erecting goalposts, marking out pitches, showers, a social club bar and functions — the nuts and bolts of the game happens only because old stagers wanting to keep our game going, and with no thought of payment or reward.

Unpaid volunteers giving to the game rather than taking, in order to repay the enjoyment they get from the game, and its providers. Will we fuddy-duddies remain keen to give hours and hours of voluntary unpaid labour simply to provide an infrastructure leading to a greedy few so-called personalities putting, for the first time in the history of rugby, personal monetary gain before pride in

representing their country, division, county, club; besides ruining the valued and treasured ethos and culture in the game?

Simon Barnes's article (December 1), showing his obvious ignorance of our game, was very derisive of its ethos but having indulged myself in most games/sports, I really do find rugby's unique and rather special, worth preserving at all costs against selfish non-participants wishing to cash in.

Why ruin rugby for the majority when those who need, or want, to make money out of the game always have had the option to do so?

Commercial PR and marketing agencies outwith the game, some in it, seem to be those with most to say about encouraging the "few" real personalities at the top echelons of our game to make some money out of it for themselves — with a cut to the agencies of course.

How divisive our team game could become with eight charismatic extrovert money-makers in the team earning variable amounts and playing alongside seven introverts uninterested in the agencies. The mind boggles at the thought.

Rugby clubs are indebted to old stagers like Dudley Wood, despite Mr Davies's snide remarks, for sustaining the game and likely to overtake the game in trying to safeguard the interest of 99,999 players on a Saturday afternoon against the 10 so-called stars being encouraged to spend training time on the history of rugby, personal monetary gain before pride in

they're under pressure trying to find time to train, so how would they reconcile their commercial activities, where would their priorities lie?

Incidentally, what would be Dudley Wood's price, given his own star rating and entertainment value, for speaking at my junior club's annual dinner — or would the dividing line be arbitrarily struck at player level?

Many props must have smiled recently at your report of the Welshman advocating £25,000 for future international appearances, as well as inferring that because of the unavoidable head-bashing in the front row props might be less marketable than others as "personalside". Leaving aside Prosser, Meredith, Fankler and Pullin, their positional misfortune certainly seemed to have a beneficial effect on Mike Burton, entrepreneur and Fran Cotton, businessman.

At international level no player should lose his normal income by playing and practice requirements but if we are to give the All Blacks a roasting let's keep our eye on the ball rather than the cill.

No Sir! I am an old stager wishing to keep the commercial entrepreneurs and greedy players at bay. It's the 100,000 who want to play the game, and retain the present status quo.

Yours truly, B. JOHN BROAD, Bransford, Chapel Lane, Buckover, Wotton-Under-Edge, Glos.

Too high a price to pay

From Mr D. Lowman

Sir, You report (December 1) that the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association deems it necessary to warn swimmers of their "obligation" to the national (Scottish) agenda.

However, the same report carries the story that the same body has sanctioned an event, described as the Scottish national sprint meeting, in which the number of finalists in an event has been reduced from the usual eight to two.

Should the Scottish ASA not look long and hard at its own "obligations" to the sport of which it purports to be custodian, but whose nature it is willing to so radically change for the sake of "providing more excitement for viewers"?

Whilst as an ex-competitor myself I have often bemoaned the lack of television coverage achieved by my sport, I would rather see poor coverage continue than see the sport itself distorted for the sake of increased sponsorship, which I find more the reasoning behind this move.

Yours faithfully, DAVID LOWMAN, Rivedale, 37 Westridge Road, Portsmouth, Southampton.

Clear conscience

From Mr S. Downes

Sir, You reported on November 30 that there was to be no drug testing at last weekend's European Cup swimming competition because, according to Norman Sarsfield, secretary of LEN, the European governing body, it costs £250 to test each cubic centimetre of urine. Does Mr Sarsfield mean that this is too high a price to pay for the sport's clear conscience? Yours faithfully, STEVEN DOWNES, 191 Fulham Court, Streatham Hill, London SW2.

Changing times


From Mr H. Savin

Sir, The problems afflicting some of the members of Wentworth highlight the difference between a members' and a proprietary club.

In the 1920s one could buy golf course land for half a crown (12½p) an acre and 50 gentlemen could easily afford their own club — absolutely delightful but gone for ever.

Since the war things have changed so vastly that only a properly organised business can manage to build new courses. A committee of part-time amateurs has no chance. I know of only one new members club to be started since the war; all the rest are proprietary. Starting from zero in 1945, they now represent somewhere between 20 per cent and 25 per cent of all clubs. By early in the next century they will be a majority. With the very large sums of money now at stake, it is simply not possible to allow the members, however well intentioned, to play more than a fringe or nominal role. Not everyone disapproves the vast majority of staff prefer a stable management to the vagaries of control by a committee whose membership frequently changes and whose expertise is as variable as it is often unpredictable. Many members who simply enjoy playing golf prefer the absence of inter-club machination associated so often with rule by committee.


A proprietor charges what the market will bear, but he also must please his customers. More courses will mean more competition, lower prices and more choice, provided enough courses can be built at the right cost. And that is the real nub of the problem. Yours sincerely, HUGH STOVIN, Golf Centres Limited, 17 Market Place, Oundle, Peterborough.



TENNIS

THE DAVIS CUP FINAL


GERMANY v SWEDEN



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Flouting the law

From Mr J. T. Findlay

Sir, May I have an explanation of why the laws of the game of rugby constantly appear to be contravened, when I watch a match of international level.

Why is it now customary to allow forwards to put their players, presumably holding the ball, towards the opposition? Is this not obstruction or offside? Furthermore, why cannot players in rucks be tackled? Is this not obstruction or offside? Because being such busy fellows, tackling would impede their future mobility about the field whilst fast running threequarters must be slammed down by tackles.

Why are tackles about the head not construed as dangerous and the offending player dismissed from further participation in the game?

Why are players from outside positions, being in front of the kicker, allowed to advance instead of retreating or waiting to

be overtaken by the kicker to be put on side? Surely a scrum back at the place of the kick is in order and admonition of the offenders?

Why must the catcher of a high ball have to face attackers who are jumping above chest level with feet and legs flailing. Is it not dangerous play? Why allow a man to be tackled and put the ball on the ground is he now to be prevented from playing the ball, being held down by the tackler whilst others can come and grab the ball. Is this not obstruction?

I consider it is incumbent upon those playing representative rugby to set us ordinary players an example to follow but instead I consider that the laws of international rugby are regularly being flouted by players and ignored by referees.

Yours faithfully, J. T. FINDLAY, 7 Warren Close, The Meadows, Eastbourne.

Playing fair

From Mr J. Griffiths

Sir, Mr Mitchell's condemnation of the football referee, George Tyson, (Sports Letter, December 7) is unjustified. Unless we accept that the referee is right — even when he shows human fallibility and is wrong — sport will continue on its downhill journey.

In the Nottingham Forest v Everton match, Mr Tyson awarded an indirect free-kick in the last few minutes against the Everton goalkeeper Southall for time wasting. This decision only became a talking point when the ball had been cleared upfield, gone for a corner or goal kick, we would have heard no more of the decision. Surely we should either congratulate Forest on their skill in using the indirect free kick wisely and scoring a goal, or question the Everton defensive cover for allowing them to score. To blame the referee may be fashionable but it is both illogical and unfair.

Yours sincerely, JACK GRIFFITHS, 5 Jersey Road, Ferring by Sea, Worthing, West Sussex.

Percentage game

From Mr G. J. Oliver

Sir, It is irrelevant that England should be seeded before Spain on football terms alone. Since the 1986 World Cup finals, Spain have achieved a success rate of 59.68 per cent based on 15 victories, seven draws and nine defeats. Meanwhile, England's figures are superior. A 64.06 per cent success rate based on 14 victories, 13 draws and five defeats. Significantly, during this period England defeated Spain 4-2 in Madrid.

Three of the teams who defeated England (Eire, West Germany and Sweden) also defeated Spain, whilst a Spanish home defeat at the hands of Yugoslavia can be matched by

two English victories over the Slavs.

The two teams' records in the last two World Cups is almost identical, with England, if anything, having the upper hand by virtue of finishing one place higher in the second round group in the 1982 finals.

Past World Cup history also favours England, with a success rate of 57.35 per cent over eight tournaments compared to Spain's 50.00 per cent over seven tournaments. If anything, Sweden has a stronger case than both England and Spain, achieving significant victories over both, and finishing top of their qualifying group above England.

Yours faithfully, GUY J. OLIVER, 20A Longbeach Road, Chatham, SW11.

Rallying cry

From Mr W. G. Treadwell

Sir, All seater stadiums is the cry. No way if the seats are anything like the £9 one I had at the back of QPR's West Stand last Sunday.

Most of the pitch was visible if you leaned to the right and looked round a large metal ventilation duct that rose from floor to roof. Pity the people to

my left, half the goal at that end was in sight only if you stood up. Any action close to the goal line and you could forget it and I am over 6ft tall. How an adult with children (the people seating will bring back to the game, it is said) manages I do not know.

Yours faithfully, JOHN W. G. TREADWELL, 77 Muncester Road, Battersea.

The small ball is hit finally out of bounds

lber's car on the day of the final, sent Harris on court in a state of hypertension. He convulsed six times, a drive over the back wall, a complete mis hit and a penalty stroke in an opening game, taken 9-1 by Leeson with carefully-constructed straight line tactics.

"By the time he was two games and four points down, he survived pay out grumbles but may not do so again.

Several leading professionals refused to enter and at least one withdrew late to avoid losing money.

RESULTS: Men's Final: D Harris (Essex) vs B Brown (Northampton), 5-3, 5-3, 5-3, 5-3. Women's Final: L. Souter (Gloucestershire) vs S Homer (Yorkshire), 5-3, 5-3, 5-3.

By George Rags

an encore

Worcester on

The meeting at Worcester yesterday was abandoned because the course was waterlogged after torrential rain.

Clerk of the course Hingo Bynna said: "The track was raceable earlier in the morning but we had heavy rain and had no alternative but to call the meeting off."

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[illegible]

Hydock Park

... good to soft

2.20 (2m) hdl 1. GOLD SERVICE (P. J. Ryan, 11-8 fav); 2. Steeple Lame (P. J. Ryan, 11-3); 3. Sacks O'or (S. J. O'Neill, 8-5). ALSO RAN: 11-4 Park Street, 7-10 American.

(jw), 12 Swedean (Sch), 33 Cool Ground (Ahn), 65 I Evernight (H), 100 Elmeral (Cannon) (P. J. Ryan, 11-3), 261 Red, C Brooklet at Lambourn (w), £17.00; £2.40, £1.20, £2.10, £2.75, £13.00, £35.25.

2.15 (2m 4d hdl) 1. YORKSHIRE HOLLY (P. Niven, 12-1); 2. Westwood (G. McCourt, 19-1); 3. Horseme d'Assine (D. O'Sullivan, 11-1).

[illegible]

11-4 Series of Justice, 4-1 BR of A-Lma, 6-1 Astoria, 2 Crystall Spring, 6-1 RI Rukus, 12-1 Sprma, 14-1 Sprma, 17-1 Sprma	3 1041 THE SHAH
LYDIA MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: 2-Y-O: 285-70) (13)	4 3006 NY PAL
1 040 BROWN KISBERT 14-1 Main 9-0 R Hills 3	5 0405 TORNADO
2 010 DR MACCARTHERY 9-1 RUSP W O'Grann 9-0 J W 3	6 0430 CHALL'S
3 0215 LITTLE SATIN 12-1 Mitchell 9-0 A Clark 1	7 0405 GREY QV
4 4985 MARQUING 13-1 Astor 9-0 N Adams 73	8 5420 CONCERN
5 0002 DORCE 9-0 C 9-0 W 12	10 6000 CHAMP
6 0016 THE SOUTH ST 12-1 Johnson Houghton 9-0 W 12	11 0-00 COURT
7 01 0401 GARY GARY 8-1 W 12	

0 0891	SCALES OF JUSTICE 14 (C) J Hills 3-9-3	C Sunday (7) 13	11 0-0	COBBLE
7 0400	WYCHHAIST 14 (R,S) C Benstead 9-9-3	R Hills 9	12 0300	MAUREN
8 2244	ROSE 13 (F) J Jenkins 5-1	W Jones 2	13 -065	PELIGRUS
9 624	SIMPLE FESTIVAL 65 (R,B) R O'Sullivan 3-10-10	J Williams 4	14 0	REPAIROC
M Hills 10				
0 1004	ACQUINTANCE 16 (F,S) J Jenkins 6-8-12	N Day 14	11-4	Sao Paulo
1 58-0	THE FOALICULE 88 (S) S Christian 4-8-10	N Adams 5	6-1	Times Are Hard
2 0040	KALAPARTY 30 C Benstead 3-8-6	M Rimmer 7		
3 0043	BIT OF A LASS 36 (F) D Arbutnot 3-8-8	A Proctor (7) 13		
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2	4-24	WITCH OF ENDOR HANDICAP (22,816: 1m (14)
1	0-00	NIT THE HIGH SPOTS 182 J Handicap 3-9-10 G Duffield 3
2	0-23	CRYSTAL SPRAY 21 (BF) H Candy 3-10-3
		P Briggs (7) 12
3	0-0	AODING MAN 21 W Holden 4-8-8 G Carter 5
4	0-30	SIR RUFUS 13 (F) C Nelson 3-5-5 A Clark 1
5	0-25	MAJORITY HOLDING 21 (F) K Ivory 4-8-4

7	-080	UNSTAY ASPIRATION 48J N Kemick 3-0-5			8	8325	MISCHKA
					9	8200	IVORY'S
8	8544	ANSTNEY BOY 121 C Allen 4-0-4	D Blitack (7) 10		10	0489	COLSAN
9	8646	DR ZEVA 45 J Jenkins 3-0-4	J Oden (8) 9		11	3160	BLAZING
10	0-0-6	SUZ LORENZO 13 B R O'Sullivan 4-0-3	G Duffield 4		12	050	ELVO, T
11	0230	CORMACK'S 22J A Bailey 3-0-2	G Carter 12		13	6000	HINZAT
12	3603	FACT OR FICTION 13 H Canby 3-0-2	P Briston (7) 11				3-4 Musical Fm
13	8205	ORIENTAL TREASURE 13 (8) J Hille 4-0-0	R Hille 11				Kate, B-1 Autobrid,
14	0000	CHAPL, CHIMES 13 F Felden 3-0-7	M Adams 8				
	S-1	SUZ LORENZO, 2-2 Benker Mason, 5-1 Thabert, 7-1 Cor-					

31.0	MARIE
32.0	WES/DEL

2:10 MARIE GALANT MAIDEN CLAIMING
TAKES (Div I: 22:36; 1m 27) (14)

1	004	COUNTY MEO 94 (9)	1 Matthews 3-9-11	A McElone 14
2	0023	BANKER MASON R	1 Callaghan 3-9-10	W Wrighten 13
3	0023	RAISE A STAR 91 R	1 Almaraz 4-8-10	T Williams 3
4	0023	TRACE OF ROMY 13 C	1 West 3-9-7	W Labin 7 (7)
5	048	MAISON 92 R	13 3-9-7	G Boudard 2
6	040	MAISON 92 R	13 3-9-7	B Boudard 2

2:40 ATROPOI
22:39; 67) (13)

1	5543	CORIN
2	0403	ATROPOI
3	0430	SOCKE
4	455	NAVAL
5	5022	JOVIAL
6	4030	TRACAI
7	3069	SIRSE E

5	65	LATIN LEOP 8 (R) J Petros 9-0	M Wighams 1-3	5	52	VRH ARK
6		PERMAN SQUID P Walsby 9-0	G Bardsley 9-0	4	0053	PAWERS
7	60	RING APPEAL 35 C Britton 9-0	N Day 2	6	1403	GREEN
8	0500	SPANISH WHISPER 13 (B) P Aledin 9-0	R Hogg 7	7	8210	ST VILL
9	0658	TELEPHONE 36 (B) A Bailey 9-0	Melody Town (7) 11	8	0006	DOONIN
10	0500	YOUNMAN B23 35 K Hary 9-0	C Dwyer 10	9	6152	SUZZETT
11	004	BLACK DOG 2 J Johnson 8 Houghton 8-9	W Hume 12	10	5126	SMG TR
12	0	DARABWYA M South 9-0	G Carter 1			
13	0	MORRISWY 21 J O'Donoghue 8-9	N House 6			
14	0	NOBLE SOUL P Walsby 8-9	N House 6			
7		4 D O'Connell 4 D O'Connell 5-11	Latia Lane 5-1			
						Events Green Chapel, 5-1 Bank

1.40 LYDIA MAIDEN STAKES (Div 1: 2-Y-O:
2,284: 78) (14 runners)

1	CASTEL VISCADO J	Dunlop 9-0	A Clark 5	
2	4624	COPPERBOTTOM 14	RF R Smyth 9-0	W Mills 14
3	FIGHTING SUN H	Cottingham 9-0	A Pomeroy 8	
4	0	GF OF LIFE B	W Wilson 9-0	A Belling 54

2.10 SUTHERN

1	0003	CLIFTON
2	3018	GO DO

Selections
By Mandarin

1.40 Copperbottom. 12.10 Suzy Lorenzo. 12.40
Sales Of Justice. 1.10 Dr MacCarter. 1.40 Tauer.
2.10 Green's Collection. 2.40 Musical Flash.
1.10 Sao Paulo. 3.40 The Shanahan Bay.

Court in April. The disciplinary committee will investigate whether the trainer has committed a breach of the rules of racing.

could not have continued in Lambourn.

"A few months ago the outlook was bleak but now it is much improved. I was down to

1.40 LA REVE
S. 5,000, 1000m

1.40 LA REVE
S. 5,000, 1000m

Easterby was given a conditional discharge and ordered to pay £225 costs at York Crown Court.

Her death follows the loss of
Trystixy, another outstanding
French race mare, earlier this
year.

Easterby faces
Jockey Club

Good news

French public during her racing career.

Allez France's best produce is her 1985 Nureyev filly, Action Francaise, who won a group three race at Chantilly. She had a yearling colt by Speed A Buck who was in foal to that stallion at the time of her death.

John Wynn of Fox Rothschild

Owner Daniel Wildenstein made no secret of the fact that he regarded Allez France as his greatest horse and unquestionably she was the darling of the

Her finest hour was at Longchamp in October 1974 when, partnered by the injured Yves Saint-Martin, she narrowly held off Comtesse De Loir in France's greatest race. Saint-Martin rode the daughter of the champion stallion, but temporary heart irregularity.

Hills report support for Barnbrook Again in their match betting with Desert Orchid but not sufficient for them to change the quote of 7-4. Desert Orchid is 5-2 on.

Vodkatini, third to Desert Orchid in the race last year

The 1974 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner, who was 19, had to be put down after being kicked by another horse.

Allez France won 13 of her 21 starts but never was at her best in England where she was twice beaten into second place in the

From Our French Racing Correspondent

Paris

Allez France, one of the greatest mares to have raced in Europe this century, has died at Lane's End Farm in Kentucky as the result of a freak accident in the

Desert Orchid and Kribensis the winners of the King George VI Rank Chase and the Top Rank Christmas Hurdle respectively last season, will be attempting to make history by repeating themselves at Kempton Park this year.

Accident kills Allez France

BOXING

Laing has Santana for next contest

imate, which in 1987 the government had agreed to work out a guarantee, and present a bill to parliament by early April.

Yugoslavs offer England a way back into Europe

By David Miller

England have been offered a foot in the door as a route back into European competition, with an imaginative suggestion from the Yugoslav Football Federation. Miljan Miljanic, Yugoslavia's international director, has formally proposed to Bert Millichip, the chairman of the Football Association, and to Bill Fox, the president of the Football League, that each of the 18 first division Yugoslav clubs should play its opposite number in England in the Football League, home and away, in a mammoth pre-season football festival next August after the World Cup finals. Pairings would be determined by this season's final positions.

The proposals were made at The Den on Tuesday night after England's victory in the B international match. Miljanic, who 13 years ago was on the point of becoming manager of Arsenal but was

prevented from leaving Real Madrid, has an enduring affection for English football.

"The three European competitions mean little or nothing without England's clubs," he said yesterday. "Staging this festival would be an expression of our appreciation of England's contribution to football over the years and their continuing importance to the game. We need them back."

Miljanic said that neither the Yugoslav federation nor the Yugoslav police authority would be concerned about the possible problems of English hooligans. When England played in Belgrade two years ago in the qualifying competition of the European championship, there were little or no problems from English spectators.

"We would welcome any of your spectators," Miljanic said. "We have seldom found

them to be anything but friendly, and if they get drunk after a match it is usually in the best of spirits together with our spectators. Football can be and should be a bond between spectators, and we think such a festival as this would help to prove it."

There is a certain vested interest in Miljanic's proposal. He believes the contrasts in styles would be equally beneficial to both sets of clubs. "For the English to appreciate the finer points of skill of the Yugoslavs, evident in the past two days, and for the Yugoslavs to recognize the importance of the discipline and physical commitment of English players which is essential to the formation of any successful side."

"We hope that serious consideration will be given by all parties to what we have suggested," Miljanic said.

England wait for Brazilian reply to March invitation

Brazil are the latest team being asked for a match at Wembley before the World Cup. They have already offered to come on February 21, but England are unable to play on that date.

Now the FA hope that the Brazilians will be interested in March 28, when England were originally going to Dublin, for or in an end-of-season engagement. This was called off by the managers, Jack Charlton and Bobby Robson, when the two teams were drawn in the same group for the World Cup finals in Italy.

Poland have confirmed they can play on either date, and

England are also waiting to hear from Portugal. But Brazil, who drew a crowd of 95,000 when they won the World Cup in May 1987, would be the biggest attraction.

Uruguay, also bound for Italy, play in this season's triangular tournament, which will have to be renamed because Scotland are not involved. Argentina were the first-choice replacements, but were unavailable.

Brazil are also interested in a match against Ireland, but their preference for February causes problems. Wales also want to meet the Brazilians,

but their preference is a match in May.

The Republic and England were drawn against Holland and Egypt in the same World Cup group in Rome last Saturday.

Dr Tony O'Neill, general secretary of FA of Ireland, said: "The Uruguayans are keen to play us in Dublin in March. We are also pursuing the possibility of playing the Brazilians, but that is unlikely because they want to play in February. That would be difficult as many of the squad will have club commitments around that time."

Scotland eager to win over Italians

Scotland will embark on a big public relations exercise next February, designed to win the support of the neutral Italian supporters in the World Cup finals.

Andy Roxburgh, the Scotland coach, is taking his squad to the Italian Riviera, where the Scots will be based in June, and included on the itinerary is a visit to the derby match between Genoa and Sampdoria on February 11.

Roxburgh believes the game, in the Ferraris Stadium, where Scotland will meet Costa Rica and Sweden, can be used to his team's advantage.

"We had planned to take the players to Genoa as soon as the draw was made," Roxburgh said yesterday. "But we have just discovered that the two clubs based in the city, Sampdoria and Genoa, play on the day we arrive in Italy."

"We would like to take in that game as it allows the

players to experience the atmosphere of the stadium when it is full for a derby. In fact, the whole thing could be a very useful public relations exercise."

Roxburgh and his assistant, Craig Brown, were today presented with their awards as co-winners of the Younger's Tartan Special manager-of-the-month scheme — but neither man is resting on his laurels.

Despite the prospect of thousands of miles of travelling to watch Costa Rica and Sweden, Roxburgh said: "I'm prepared to make as many trips as it takes to get the information I need."

"The next few weeks involve finding out the programmes of our opponents. Brazil should not be too much trouble, while Bobby Robson has promised to give me everything we need to know about Sweden."

Robson's choice in cash pool

By Clive White

The England World Cup squad and those players in squads selected by Bobby Robson but who do not appear in next year's Italian finals will share in a pool in excess of £1 million as a result of the Football Association's liaison with a management consultant agency. This money is in addition to that which the players will receive from the FA as a bonus for qualifying for various stages of the finals.

The agency, First Artists Corporation, which has looked after the interests of the FA and the England team for the past three years, yesterday announced it had signed a new five-year agreement with the FA which will embrace sponsorship deals revolving around the next European championship and the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

The agency, whose clients include Diego Maradona and the Liverpool and Rangers teams, has recently signed on behalf of the FA and the England players a four-year sponsorship with Mars which is believed to be worth more than £500,000. It has also finalized a deal concerning the merchandising arrangements.

Other deals being negotiated involve a drinks supplier, an electronics company, a cosmetics firm and a motor vehicle company which will be supplying cars to each member of the World Cup squad.

Steve Hodge, of Nottingham Forest, left Wembley last night after the match with Yugoslavia to sign a two-year contract with Diadora, the Italian sports goods firm.

Tips from the top for England hopefuls



Geoff Boycott, the former Yorkshire and England opening batsman, seen arriving at Headingley yesterday to give the first of five master classes for the younger England batsmen who will tour the West Indies later this winter (Martin Scarry writes).

Boycott, the leading English run-maker in Test cricket, is tutoring Nasser Hussain, of Essex, Alec Stewart, of Surrey, the former Cambridge University captain Mike Atherton, of Lancashire, and Robert Bailey, of Northamptonshire, in a series of sessions requested by the England team manager, Micki Stewart.

Before the start of the tutorial at the Yorkshire indoor school yesterday,

Boycott said: "It's the first time England have asked me officially to do anything to help and obviously I shall do everything I can."

The young batsmen have had a number of aspects of their play which need improvement outlined by Stewart, and Boycott will work on these with the players during the sessions, which will take place before both England parties for the winter trips to West Indies and Zimbabwe assemble at Lillleshall next month.

During his time as an England player, Boycott engaged in some compelling battles with the array of West Indies fast bowlers but in 30 matches in the Caribbean he made 2,932 runs at an average of 69.8. His

record includes eight centuries and 17 scores of 50 or more.

He came out of his 29 Test matches against West Indies with a highly creditable average of 45.93.

It is in the hope that he can instill some of his dedication and technique into the country's younger talents that Stewart has called him in. Boycott, in his autobiography, made it quite clear: "It is no use just standing there and having bouncers bowled at you. You have to have the technique to score."

Although Stewart imposed a blanket ban on media coverage I understood that part of Boycott's first lesson involved boys from the Yorkshire groundstaff bowling short-pitched deliveries from 15 yards.

Bailey is believed to have received a cut on the nose and James Whitaker, a member of the party for Zimbabwe, was hit on the helmet. The first tour of the series was followed by an analysis of individual batting technique, using videotape. The players will return to Headingley today for part two of the Boycott tutorial.

Afterwards, Stewart, who has devised an intensive training programme for both touring teams said: "Geoff is just one of our coaches; a group also including people such as Alan Knott and Geoff Arnold, and this is just a normal training session." Boycott refused to comment on his pupils' progress.

Mixed reception for IRFB

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

The International Rugby Football Board's proposals to relax rugby union's amateur regulations, revealed yesterday, received a muted reception. The proposals include compensation for players who lose money when preparing for domestic internationals and permit payment for books, media work or personal appearances and will be discussed further at a special board meeting next March.

Dudley Wood, secretary of the Rugby Football Union, said: "When players for time lost when they are on international duty looks fairly innocuous but the implications behind it are worrying. Soon individual clubs will be

trying to pay their players. "However we do realize that there is a view that players should not be financially disadvantaged. But if I were an employer, I would immediately deduct money from any rugby player on my staff who went off to an England squad session. I don't know of any employer who does do that to any member of the England squad."

Wood emphasized the RFU's reservations about the draft proposals: "If this is the sort of game that everybody wants, then fine. If you join a club you have to abide by its rules and we would have to make the best of the new situation."

"Other countries seem to think these proposals will not change the game but I think the game will change

and that there will be no going back. I believe that the Rugby Football Union thought more deeply about the implications than other unions and we have been very concerned about the sacrifice of certain principles."

The knowledge that the IRFB intended change has produced claims for substantial sums of money which could become available to players, without loss of their amateur status. Tony Carter, managing director of Prisma, a sports marketing company which has drawn up plans for a limited company, from which subscribing players could draw a dividend, suggested there could be difficulties in interpretation of advertising which is not related to rugby.

"If you see John Kirwan or All the New Zealand squad in All

Blacks kit advertising lager, as is happening now, I don't see how you could argue that is not rugby-related," Carter said. "Our players may be a little disappointed with this but in New Zealand I can imagine the reaction amounting to an uproar."

Brian Moore, the England hooker and one of four players to have represented the England squad in some recent meetings, said: "It all seems very piecemeal. They should have changed everything in one go." But Keith Rowlands, the IRFB secretary, said the aim had been for a credible set of regulations enforceable throughout the rugby-playing world: "What we are hoping for now is an open, full, frank and comprehensive debate on the proposals."

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Sport is let off lightly in flu wave

By John Goodbody

Sport is largely escaping the flu epidemic, possibly because the age-groups which are the most vulnerable are children and the elderly.

The Football Association and the Football League yesterday reported only isolated problems, such as at Fulham, who vainly asked for their FA Cup tie at Bristol City last Saturday to be postponed as they had only seven fit players.

Fulham did not have any injections against flu this season, although they have done so in the past. The club will consider returning to their former practice next year, although injections do not guarantee immunization against all the different strains of the virus.

In Scotland, St Mirren had 10 players ill with flu, plus a number of injuries, causing their game with Dundee United to be postponed twice before finally taking place last night.

However, generally the clubs on both sides of the border have escaped the epidemic, with many of them having taken the precaution of injecting players at the start of the season.

Arsenal have adopted this practice. John Cane, the club doctor, says that football clubs can often be vulnerable because the players are in constant contact.

He thinks that the only reason why the epidemic is not hitting sport harder is that it is a strain of the British-based flu, which was prevalent in 1975 and many of the players are immune, having suffered 14 years ago.

In rugby union, Harlequins report no serious problems, while John Allen, the secretary of Leicester, says that about three or four players missed last Saturday's games out of a total playing number of 85. "That is about five per cent, which is apparently the average in the whole population throughout the country."

Racing also has had no general difficulties, although on Tuesday Gerald Ham, the Axbridge trainer, had to do most of the work to prepare Knockback for its victory in the Galliano Challenge Cup at Plumpton after almost all his stable staff had gone down with the illness.

Jarvis Astaire, the boxing promoter, said he will insist all the boxers booked for the Albert Hall Show on January 10 are given injections against flu. A promotion in Kings Lynn last night was cancelled because several boxers were ill with the virus.



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THE TIME TO CARE IS NOW

Beaten by the clock

Adelaide (Reuters) — Glen Housman, of Australia, swam faster yesterday than the world's fastest freestyle swimmer, Vladimir Salnikov, from the Soviet Union, but was denied a world record by a technical fault.

Housman, the 15min barrier in swimming's longest race in heats at Australia's Commonwealth Games trials, but the automatic timing system failed to register his finishing touch. Hand-held stop-watches clocked him at 14min 53.59sec, 1.17sec faster than the record.

In court

Mark Heap, a rugby union player, from Bradford, yesterday denied at Leeds Crown Court an assault charge accusing him of injuring an opposing player at a charity tournament.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Combined Services... 18

Soviet Union XV... 3

George Graham, the Scotland B prop, made sure that the Soviet Union crashed to a disappointing defeat at the hands of the Combined Services at the Military Stadium, Aldershot last night. His last minute try, allied to the goal kicking of Hull, the England Under-21 stand-off, took his side to victory by two goals and two penalty goals to a solitary penalty by the Soviets.

Before the kick-off the Services lost Underwood, the England wing, with a thigh injury sustained during the divisional match at the weekend.

Maleeva: owes nothing

Monaco (AFP) — Roger Kingdon, the world 110 metres hurdle record holder, of the United States, and Ana Quirot, of Cuba, the 400m runner, have been voted the leading athletes of 1989 by a jury set up by the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

Top athletes

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Tennis switch

Zurich (AFP) — Manuela Maleeva, the Bulgarian-born tennis player, ranked ninth in the world, will represent Switzerland from next month. Sofia-born Maleeva, aged 22, married Swiss coach Francois Frangiere two years ago and has lived in Switzerland since. Maleeva said she owed nothing to Bulgaria.

New yacht

Auckland (Reuters) — The Mercury Bay Boating Club, who are embroiled in a legal dispute over yachting's America's Cup, said yesterday it would build a new yacht, to be defender, or challenger, by October 1990.

The leaders

Clyde Vaughan, of Sunderland, is basketball's men's player of the year and Val Watson, of Northampton, the women's player.

Graham goes to court to terminate contract

Barney Eastwood, the boxing manager, is facing another legal battle with one of his boxers who wants to end his contract. Herol Graham, the British middleweight champion, who is virtually estranged from the Belfast bookmaker, is starting on the path taken by Barry McGuigan.

The Sheffield-based Graham, aged 30, has issued a writ in the Northern Ireland High Court in which he claims that a contract binding him to Eastwood until October 1991 is null and void because of alleged mismanagement.

Graham is seeking injunctions to stop Eastwood from interfering in the appointment of a new manager and also to restrain him from making personal contact while Graham prepares for bouts.

The boxer is also demanding that all financial documents relating to his

management and promotion should be given to him, along with a full account of all financial transactions.

He is seeking damages for the loss he claims to have suffered because of alleged mismanagement and wants a payment of money he claims that Eastwood owes him.

Mac Williams, the Cardiff manager, is to seek compensation for a mistake that cost one of his boxers a contest worth £500. Robert Smythe, a super-featherweight, of Newport, was wrongly suspended last week after the British Boxing Board of Control had advised the Welsh Area Council that Smythe had suffered four successive defeats.

In fact, the Gwent boxer had won his previous contest by knocking out Greg Ehanwe. Williams will seek compensation.